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BIRTH.

On the 26th November, at the "Chalet," the wife of H. W. ROBERTSON, of a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

On the 20th November, at Auckland, N.Z., in the Private Chapel, Bishopscourt Parnell, by the Right Rev. W. G. Cowie, D.D., Primate of New Zealand, FREDERICK GEORGE, third son of GEORGE SALK, of Yokohama, to IDA, second daughter of Captain H. WORSF, Burrwood, Remuera, Auckland. (By telegram.)

ARRIVALS OF MAIL.

The American mail of the 1st November arrived, per T. K. K. steamer *Hongkong Maru*, on the 29th November (28 days); and the German mail of the 30th October arrived, per N. D. L. steamer *Prins Heinrich*, on the 30th November (31 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Mr. Hugh Clifford, the British Resident in Pahang, has been appointed Governor and Commander-in-Chief of British Norneo and Labuan.

Telegraphic communication with St. Helena has been established by a cable from Capetown. This is the first link in the all British cable between England and the Cape.

It is reported that two of the principal foreign banks doing business in China have recently made strong representations to the Chinese Government on the advisability of establishing a uniform coinage system instead of allowing every province to run its own mint as at present. — *China Gazette*.

We hear with great pleasure that the contract with the American Syndicate for the Hankow-Canton Railway has been signed at last, after long and wearisome delays. — *N. C. Daily News*.

Vice-Admiral Sir E. Seymour left on Monday in H.M.S. *Centurion* for Siam and Singapore. The flagship will return to Hongkong before being relieved on this station. It is expected that her relief will be out about April, but it is as yet uncertain whether the new flagship is to be the *Glory* or the *Goliath*. Both are new ships of the same class preparing for their first commission. The *Glory* was mentioned first, but as the *Goliath* is the more advanced it is thought possible the final selection may fall on her.

The Viceroy of Canton, we hear, has notified the Consuls that it is unsafe for foreigners to visit Fatsan at present. A great festival is going on there, and will continue a week or two, in connection with the opening of a new temple, and as great numbers of thieves and bad characters usually congregate on such occasions the Viceroy has deemed it proper to issue the notice in question. The festivities include a great theatrical performance, and in order to diminish the danger from fire the sheds are covered with white cloth instead of matting.

Senor Ortiz, Consul for Spain at Twatutia and who was twice in charge of the Consulate at Hongkong, has been transferred to Capetown, where a first-class Consulate is being established by his Government. The *Formosan*, in giving a sketch of his official career, says:—He is a most popular man wherever he goes and is distinguished for his good, practical, common sense and unusual goodness of heart. On Senor Ortiz's departure the Consulate here is to be abolished, and Spanish interests thereafter at both Famsui and Tainan cared for by the British Consuls at those places.

On the arrival of the *Hongkong Maru* in the harbour on Wednesday morning it was reported that Judge Putnam, who was attached to the Court of Appeal at Harrogate, in the State of New York, had died on board the previous evening. The deceased gentleman had not been well for some time, having been troubled with "La Grippe," and he was taking a sea trip for the benefit of his health. He was on his way to visit his son in Manila. He was a gentleman very well known and highly respected in New York. Though it has not yet been definitely arranged, it is probable that the body will be taken back to New York.

A correspondent writes to the *N. C. Daily News* under date of 18th November as follows:—I arrived in Shanghai on Monday morning last after a considerable absence and left again that night. As I wanted some small money orders for England, I called just after tiffin at the British Post Office; I only saw a native and he told me in a pretty off-hand manner that the money order office was shut at noon. A couple of hours later I looked in at the German Post Office; there were three German gentlemen and several very civil Chinese assistants and I at once got what I wanted. For one £2 order I paid \$20.35. A list outside the British Post Office gave the price of a £1 order as \$10.80. For our credit generally it is a pity the place is not shut altogether.

From the *Lusitano* we learn that Senor Galhardo, the Governor of Macao, has derived great benefit from his visit to Colowan, where he went some time ago on account of ill-health, and it is expected he will return to Macao this week.

It is reported by wire from Hamburg that the Den Danish Landmands Bank, of Copenhagen, has obtained a concession for the National Bank of Siam. French and Russian Bankers are largely interested in this very important undertaking, and it is understood that German Bankers have also a share in it. The capital is to be £1,000,000 sterling. The *Bangkok Times* discredits the reported arrangement on the ground that it is contrary to Siam's settled policy of keeping national undertakings in her own hands.

Some enterprising natives have, we hear, formed a Company at Canton to be called the Anti-Piratical Company. The object of the Company, as indicated by its title, is to afford protection to trading vessels against pirates. It is proposed to fit out a fleet of strongly armed vessels and to supply convoys for trading vessels plying between Canton, the West River, Chanchum, Sheklung, and Fatsan. The charge to be made for this service is two per cent. on the value of the cargo, and in case the merchandise should, notwithstanding the convey, be stolen, the Company undertakes to refund its value. The traders, it is said, look askance at the promoters and would require good guarantees before trusting the proposed Company.

In the Straits the military contribution has been increased from 17½ to 20 per cent., the colony being relieved, as an equivalent, of the uncertain charges for barrack services and defence works. One of the despatches on the subject from the Colonial Office to the Treasury contains the following passage:—Mr. Secretary Chamberlain admits that the Colonial Government will be still liable to provide free of charge any available unoccupied Crown Land which may be shown to be required for military purposes; the War Department on the other hand being bound to freely surrender to the Colony any sites no longer required for such purposes: but such provision of sites does not concern the Legislature and cannot therefore be properly secured by Ordinance. The matter will continue to be dealt with by executive action.

We (*Straits Times*) understand that the Governments of the Federated Malay States have agreed upon a scheme for importing a quantity of Chinese labour. The scheme has been partly devised by Mr. Hare, who is the head of the Chinese department of the Malay States. The substance of the scheme is to recruit direct from the Canton Province, and to ship from Canton on vessels that shall go direct to the Malay Peninsula ports. It is not intended that these vessels shall pass through Singapore without stopping, and they may, no doubt, bring some coolies for Singapore. But the substantive point of the scheme is that coolies shall be recruited in the Canton Province, for the Malay Peninsula, and shall be taken direct from Canton to the Malay Peninsula without any change of steamer. The Government of the Federated Malay States the prepared to contribute \$5 per head towards the working of this scheme, up to a limit not exceeding 50,000 coolies.

UGHT THE COLONY TO BUILD UP A RESERVE FUND.

(Daily Press, 27th November.)

In the Legislative Council on Thursday H.E. the Governor, referring to the memorandum of the unofficial members on the public works estimates, said it must be admitted by all that in using the premia derived from land sales we were using the capital of the colony, and that the question arose as to whether the money or a certain portion of it should not be put into a reserve fund in view of future necessity. We venture to dissent *in toto* from the proposition that the colony should build up a reserve fund in cash. The best reserve fund the colony can have is represented by public works of such a character as to contribute to the permanent prosperity of the colony and the well-being of its inhabitants. It is in the prosecution of such works that all money derived from land sales should be employed. It is no doubt correct that the unsold land represents capital, but it is unproductive capital. When the land is sold it at once begins to bring in revenue, and from every point of view it is better that the land should pass into useful occupation than that it should remain idle. His Excellency spoke of spending money on works which are not works of permanent utility, and we gather that it is for works of that character that he thinks the premia derived from land sales should not be considered available. But what does His Excellency mean by works that are not of permanent utility? All public works are supposed to be of permanent utility, and if occasionally the supposition is not borne out by the result the mistake must be set down simply to error of judgment and must not be taken as violating the principle. Works that are not of permanent utility, by which His Excellency possibly means such as described in the Estimates as "annually recurrent," are naturally chargeable to the general revenue, that is, the revenue exclusive of that derived from premia on land sales, and are so charged. It is now many years since the Colonial Office issued instructions that the revenue derived from premia on land sales was to be kept separate from the general revenue, and any prudent financier in framing a budget would naturally treat that particular item as of uncertain amount, and as likely at some remote period to disappear altogether. But in the meantime the sum brought into account under that heading cannot be better employed than in the prosecution of necessary public works. On the average of any long period of years the cost of public works of permanent utility will be found to considerably exceed the amount derived from premia on land sales, and in maintaining that it would not be correct to use revenue coming under that heading for works not of permanent utility His Excellency was contesting a shadow. But the point of importance in His Excellency's remarks is the suggestion that the colony should set about building up a cash reserve. That was the policy followed by the late Sir JOHN POPE HENNESSY, and those of our readers who were resident in the colony during the administration of that Governor will remember how, in pursuit of that unfortunate policy, public works were starved and the progress of the colony retarded. Moreover, a cash reserve gives a fictitious air of affluence to a colony and invites increased demands for imperial purposes, such as the military contribution, or directions to carry out Colonial Office fads that do not commend themselves to

public opinion, such as the building of new gaols. A cash reserve is, in fact, a thing to be avoided, not cultivated. We may cheerfully hand down to our successors works of permanent utility executed to meet recognised needs, but it is quite a different thing to hoard up money to hand it down in cash. Each generation has the duty thrown upon it of expending its revenue to the best advantage, having regard to both present and future needs. Mere hoarding is the worst possible use to which the public revenue could be put.

RELIEF FOR THE SUFFERERS FROM THE BOER WAR.

(Daily Press, 28th November.)

The meeting held at the City Hall yesterday in connection with the raising of a fund for the assistance of the wives and families of soldiers who may fall in the Transvaal War arrived at a wise decision in voting that the money raised should be given to the Mansion House Fund. General GASCOIGNE's remarks in his first speech, though made under a misapprehension, proved useful in leading to discussion and so clearing up a point upon which others as well as the General appeared to entertain mistaken ideas. The use of the term "patriotic" in connection with the proposed fund had led the General to suppose that the money might be handed over to the Patriotic Fund for distribution, that Fund being, as he explained in his speech, the balance of the money raised for similar purposes at the time of the Crimean War, and the income from which is now used for the relief of necessitous cases arising in the Army and Navy. We are not sure that the Patriotic Fund deserves the hard things said of it by General GASCOIGNE. It is common to see in the Service papers bitter complaints with reference to the administration of that Fund, but the complaints seem to be due mainly to the fact that the income is limited while the claims upon it are numerous. The whole of the annual income is expended, and expended to the best judgment of those upon whom the responsibility rests. But it is necessary that a fund of that kind should be administered on strict lines, and its management is not exactly the one that should be selected to manage the fund now about to be raised for the relief of those who suffer from the Transvaal War. Nor was there ever any intention that any such selection should be made. On the present occasion, as in the case of the Crimean relief fund, there may possibly be a small balance left after all known claims have been liberally dealt with, and in such an event the balance would presumably find its way to the Patriotic Fund and be invested; the income being used for the relief of ordinary cases of distress arising in connection with the Army and Navy. No more appropriate use could be found for it. It is, however, unnecessary to consider at this stage the disposition of a problematical balance, which in any case is likely to be small, seeing the large demands that will be made upon the Fund.

The real question before the meeting was, not whether the Patriotic Fund was to have anything to do with the money raised for the sufferers by the Transvaal War, but whether the whole of the money should be remitted to the Mansion House Fund, whether it should be devoted entirely to the relief of women and children not on the strength, or whether there should be two or more competing funds. The second proposition, namely, that the whole of the money

on the strength, is an instance of how easily the head may be led astray by the heart. The proposition was made by the Hon. H. E. POLLOCK, and the effect of it would have been to penalise the majority of the sufferers, to preclude Hongkong from assisting the families of those gallant officers who have been struck down in the proportion of one to eight of the total casualties while leading their men on, from doing anything for Sergeant Whatsisname's dependents, or giving a helping hand to women whose marriage is recognised by the military regulations. The lot of the women not on the strength would undoubtedly be a pitiable one if they received no assistance, but they do not constitute a majority, nor is there any fear that their case will be overlooked in the administration of the Mansion House Fund. The country has had a long experience of Mansion House Funds, raised for many and diverse objects, and their administration has invariably been such as to command the confidence and approval of the contributors. In the present case the Fund is placed on a basis sufficiently wide to entitle all claims to consideration, and we may be sure that they will all be dealt with as liberally as the money available will permit. The effect of having several competing funds each hampered by special conditions would be to diminish the usefulness of the money contributed, as there could not be that complete organisation that will characterise the Mansion House Fund. General GASCOIGNE spoke of the interest the officers' wives now take in the women of a regiment. The administrators of the Mansion House Fund will no doubt avail themselves very freely of the assistance that officers or their wives may be willing to give them in the investigation and verification of cases calling for assistance. Mr. FRANCOIS spoke of the Soldiers' Families' Association. The assistance of that Society will also no doubt be invited. But whatever the precise machinery that may be adopted for ascertaining and dealing with cases of distress, we may rest assured that those responsible for the administration of the Lord Mayor's Fund will effectively carry out the object of the contributors. Past experience amply warrants that opinion.

(Daily Press 30th November.)

It was a little unfortunate that the letter of the Lord Mayor of London to the *Times*, inaugurating the Patriotic Fund in connection with the Transvaal War, escaped notice until after the meeting on Monday last. The letter was reprinted in our issue of yesterday, and it will be seen that it invites subscriptions for various different objects in connection with the relief of the distress arising from the war, namely, (1) widows and orphans, (2) sick and wounded, (3) disabled soldiers, (4) wives and children. Had this been understood on Monday the meeting would have been able to make its own selection. As it was, the selection has been left to the Committee, which at its meeting yesterday decided that the money collected in Hongkong shall go to the fourth of the above objects, which it is understood will cover also the first. The Lord Mayor says that the money subscribed for wives and children will be handed over to the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Association, and it is not to be assumed that that association would abandon any families under its care upon the death of the husband and father. The second and third objects will also excite sympathy, but it is the support of wives (or widows) and children of the soldiers and sailors engaged in the war

that claim the first attention of the public. The sick, wounded, and disabled are being attended to in the meantime, and if further provision is required for them hereafter no doubt it will be forthcoming. The sense of the meeting held on Monday was entirely in favour of the money now about to be raised in Hongkong being devoted to the support of the women and children. The decision arrived at by the Committee will therefore be approved by the community. It will also be observed from the Lord Mayor's letter and the enclosed letter from the Duke of Cambridge that the old Patriotic Fund will make itself responsible for the widows, orphans, and other dependents of the officers and men who lose their lives in the war, and the Commissioners of that Fund and the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Association will no doubt work hand in hand in the matter. The Duke of Cambridge's remarks on the administration of the Patriotic Fund are of special interest in view of General Gaseigne's speech at Monday's meeting.

THE BRITISH PLAN OF CAMPAIGN.

(Daily Press 25th November)

To-day's telegrams give us some inkling of the British plan of campaign, which hitherto has been kept discreetly secret. General Buller, before leaving England telegraphed instructions to General White not to attempt to advance into Transvaal territory from Ladysmith, and it is not unlikely that it was part of his plan to attract an attack by the Boers in that direction while arranging an invasion of the enemy's territory from the other side. It will probably not be long now before the Boers in Natal are satisfactorily disposed of, and by that time they may be in a position to endorse the opinion expressed in our columns a few weeks ago by a military correspondent to the effect that they have committed a great strategical error in coming so far south. For the moment the chief interest of the campaign has shifted from the east to the southern and western frontiers of the Orange Free State. To-day's telegrams tell us that the Boers at Colesburg are hemmed in by Generals French and Gatacre, also that General Methuen's division has reached Witsputs and that a battle is imminent at Belmont. Colesburg is a town in the North of Cape Colony from which the British forces were withdrawn some time ago. Belmont is a station on the railway some sixty miles south of Kimberley, and Witsputs which Lord Methuen has reached, is another station some ten miles south of Belmont and fifteen miles north of Orange River Station. We take it that on both the south and west the British are now assuming the offensive. A recapitulation of some of the principal telegrams may be found useful in forming an estimate of the position. A telegram of the 31st October informed us that General Buller had arrived at Capetown, and six days later we were informed that he had ordered the withdrawal of the garrisons at various points, including Nauwpoort, pending the arrival of reinforcements. Thereafter there was an interval of ten days during which no mention was made of the Commander-in-Chief, and then we were told that his whereabouts were secret, but it was believed that he had gone to the north of Cape Colony to decide finally on the plan of campaign. That plan has now been arranged and is being put into execution, and the secrecy which has attended its inception and the preliminary movements of the troops

are likely to contribute to its success, as the fact of the Boers allowing themselves to be locked in at Colesburg seems to show that they have been taken by surprise. A telegram of the 21st instant stated that General Gatacre had been sent to East London to check a disloyal agitation and, in another telegram of the same date, that his division was assembling at Queenstown, a town some eighty miles up the railway. From the telegram published to-day it appears that he has got up into the neighbourhood of Colesburg, and that his mission to check a disloyal agitation at East London was a mere blind. Of General French's movements we have had no information except that he left Ladysmith by the last train before the investment and was to command the cavalry at Capetown. We have been told, however, that a strong concentration had been formed at DeAar, and presumably General French proceeded there Nauwpoort, an important railway junction and strategical position south of Colesburg, news of the evacuation of which was given in a telegram of the 6th, was re-occupied sometime before the 22nd. Turning to Lord Methuen's division, great mystery was observed concerning its earlier movements. In a telegram of the 12th we were told that the division was moving, and was evidently intended to proceed to Ladysmith via Colenso, and that the journey would occupy seventeen days. Next we were told on the 16th that it was probable General Methuen was not going to Natal, but would command a column to be formed at the Orange River Station to relieve Kimberley. On the 19th we were told he was advancing with a brigade of Guards from the Orange River (evidently meaning Orange River Station) to the relief of Kimberley, and on the 20th that the whole of the first division was with him and also that he was taking a big railway repairing staff, but even then some doubt appears to have been entertained as to his real objective. That is now no longer in doubt and we shall not have to wait much longer for the news that the gallant garrison of Kimberley has received its needed relief. Whether the column will then proceed to the relief of Mafeking or, leaving that garrison to its fate, will proceed to effect a junction with Generals Gatacre and French at Bloemfontein, remains to be seen. However that may be, it seems not unlikely that the prediction that Bloemfontein would be in the hands of the British before Christmas may be realised.

THE WAR: ITS PROGRESS AND ITS JUSTIFICATION.

(Daily Press, 1st December.)

The telegram from our London correspondent published in to-day's issue informs us that Lord Methuen's division has had ten hours of the hardest fighting in the annals of the British army and that eight thousand Boers were dislodged from their position. The next telegram will no doubt bring us the list of casualties, and it is to be feared, it is certain indeed, that it will be a long one and will plunge many families into mourning. The victory is a notable one and brings the relief of Kimberley very close. Its effect, however, must not be exaggerated. The wording of the telegram leads us to suppose that the Boer army, though dislodged from its position, was neither annihilated nor captured, and, with the necessary deduction for casualties, it will still be available to oppose the British advance. The Boer casualties would no doubt be heavy, but whether when they

are reckoned up they will come to as much as those of the British is doubtful, for in a case like this it is to be presumed that the loss of the attacking party would be somewhat greater than that of the defenders, if, as seems to have been the case, the latter were able to withdraw in fair order. When the war commenced we expressed the opinion that it would be short and sharp. Sharp it certainly has been, so far as it has gone; short, unfortunately, it does not now appear likely to be. The Boer strength is vastly greater than was supposed, even by the most competent judges, and it is passing strange that in the case of a country with nearly half the population British our intelligence department should have been so uninformed regarding the enemy's artillery. And not only are the Boers in possession of a magnificent armament, but they know how to use it, and they are, moreover, endowed with such tenacity of purpose as renders their surrender improbable until they are reduced to the last gasp. But whatever the cost, we are in for "a fight to a finish," and have to see it through.

It is not of much practical utility at this time of day discussing the justification of the war; there can be but few Britishers now, we think, who will not acknowledge that it was not only justifiable, but necessary. Yet as recently as the 28th October we find Mr. BRYN ROBERTS, M.P., writing to the *Times* defending his vote in the House of Commons against the war supply on the ground that the result of a refusal of the supply would be "an immediate communication to President Kruger frankly accepting his offer of August 19, an immediate armistice, no further shedding of blood either Boer or British, and the conclusion of a peace as truly honourable to this country as was, in my mind, the peace concluded by Mr. Gladstone after Majuba Hill." But was the peace concluded by Mr. Gladstone honourable. Magnanimous no doubt it was, but it rested on a grave error of judgment, for which we are now paying the price. Had the issue been fought out in 1884 it would have cost not a tithe of the lives either Boer or British that must now be sacrificed. As to Mr. BRYN ROBERTS's proposal, it amounts, as the *Times* puts it, to this, that the Government of the Queen ought to have been compelled in this way by the action of her loyal Commons to sue for peace to President Kruger after he had ordered her to withdraw her troops from portions of her own territory. As to the necessity for the war we may also quote the *Times*. "To what end has the Transvaal been applying the riches she has extracted from the Uitlanders? For years she has been openly creating a great military power armed to the teeth across our borders. That power by the nature of things could have but one object. It was directed against us, and against us alone. How effective the military strength of the Transvaal had become has been shown only too clearly by the way in which she has been able to take the offensive against this country on both her frontiers. Do the people who declare that we have been over-hasty and who dwell upon the beauties of patience think we ought to have waited until Mr. Kruger had spent further millions upon his artillery, had hired more mercenaries, and had constructed fresh systems of forts." We are told that the war will leave a legacy of hatred. We do not believe it. When the equality of both white peoples has been established under the supremacy of the Crown they will learn to respect, if not to

love each other, and we see no reason why the Dutch of South Africa, when their dream of racial supremacy over the British is finally shattered, should not become as loyal as the French Canadians.

THE NEW POST OFFICE.

(Daily Press, 29th November.)

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD in his protest regarding the public works estimates assigns the place of first importance to sanitary works, and in that he will carry the community with him. The chief point of contention in the protest is with reference to the Post Office. Mr. WHITEHEAD adheres to his opinion that the site on the new Praya opposite the Hongkong Club is the one that ought to be selected for the new Post Office, and he supports his contention by the argument that even if the present site were held to be more convenient and central these advantages must give way to the contention that on the Reclamation site a new and perfect Post Office could be completed within two years from date while if the present site is retained we must drag along in our present discreditable state for five years more, going from bad to worse each year as business grows. The other unofficial members in their joint memorandum, after alluding to the desirability of at once proceeding with the construction of the new Law Courts, go on to say:—"The projected new Post Office is even more urgently needed. We are of opinion that this work should on no account be delayed until the completion of the new Law Courts, but that its construction should be commenced at the same time if possible." All parties are agreed that largely increased accommodation is required for the Post Office, but if that accommodation can be provided without going to the expense of erecting a new building why incur unnecessary expenditure? The colony has a good deal of money in hand at the present time, it is true, but there are many public works required, and we are not in a position to throw money away. Now a large instalment of the increased accommodation required for the Post Office, enough in fact to meet the requirements for several years, could be provided at once by taking in the whole of the ground floor of the Supreme Court, part of which is already in use by the department. This would involve the removal of the Attorney-General's and Crown Solicitor's offices, but that is a small difficulty, as suitable accommodation for those officers could be rented in the neighbourhood on moderate terms. The work of the Supreme Court could go on as usual on the first floor, a separate entrance being provided from the side, until the completion of the new Law Courts, and then the question of whether a New Post Office was really necessary, and if so the best site for it, could be further considered. Should the necessity be established the Post Office could probably be accommodated in the new Law Court Buildings pending the erection of the new Post Office Building.

THE SHANGHAI COTTON MILL INDUSTRY.

(Daily Press, 30th November.)

Not only shareholders in the Shanghai cotton mills, but all who are interested in the commercial development of China, will read with satisfaction the remarks made by Mr. BRAND, the chairman of the International Cotton Manufacturing

Co., at the recent meeting of that concern. The introduction of the cotton industry into China not only promised good returns to those who invested their capital therein, but was expected to exercise an important influence upon the opening up of the country, for where steam machinery is introduced and proves profitable it promotes progress all round. But the brilliant expectations entertained in connection with the inception of the Cotton Mill Companies a few years ago have so far met with disappointment. Labour has not been found so cheap as was anticipated, the market for raw cotton has not proved favourable, and things generally have gone against the Companies. This state of things has given rise to pessimistic prognostications, and experts interested in the Indian mills, with whom the wish was possibly father to the thought, have prophesied but a weakly existence for the infant industry if not absolute failure. It is cheering, therefore, to find that Mr. BRAND was able to announce that the business of his Company for the past nine months had been satisfactory, and that a generally profitable result was anticipated for the coming year's trade. Possibly other mills when they come to present their reports may not be able to make quite such a good showing, each having had its own difficulties to contend with, but speaking of the prospects of the industry in general Mr. BRAND said:—"Compared with both India and Japan the advantages are on the side of the local production, and, in a word, your directors look with every confidence upon the future of this enterprise and are far from sharing in the pessimistic views of cotton mills in China recently published as emanating from an Indian expert, and which are evidently composed for local digestion." We can only hope that Mr. BRAND's view may prove correct and the Indian expert's wrong. In the meantime, as showing the growth of the industry, it may be mentioned that according to the Customs returns for the third quarter of 1899 the export of Shanghai sheetings amounted to 28,840 as pieces against 1,580 in the corresponding quarter of 1898, and 84,603 piculs of Shanghai cotton yarn were shipped as against 30,401 in the third quarter of last year.

A CASE FOR A JURY.

(Daily Press, 27th November.)

The Coroner's Abolition Ordinance, which throws onto the Police Magistrate the duties formerly discharged by the Coroner, provides that "whenever any person shall die suddenly, or by accident or violence, or under suspicious circumstances, or whenever any dead body shall be found within the colony or shall be brought into the colony, the Magistrate may, if he considers an enquiry to be necessary, enquire into the cause of death of such person without a jury, or if he shall think fit with a jury of three persons as hereinafter provided," etc. In the enquiry now proceeding into the deaths of two men of the Royal Welch Fusiliers the assistance of a jury would be advisable. The case being *sub judice* it would be improper to discuss in detail the grounds peculiar to the present case on which that opinion is based, but it may not be considered improper to state as a matter of general principle that the object of the Coroner's Abolition Ordinance was not in any degree to diminish the thoroughness of the enquiry in any doubtful case, but merely to do away with useless formalities.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

On Thursday afternoon a meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held in the Council Chamber at the Government Offices, there being present:—

His EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR (Sir Henry Blake, G.C.M.G.).
His EXCELLENCY Major-General GASCOIGNE C.M.G. (Commanding the Troops).
The Hon. J. H. STUART LOCKHART C.M.G. (Colonial Secretary).
Hon. H. E. POLLOCK (Acting Attorney-General).
Hon. R. MURRAY RUMSEY (Harbour Master).
Hon. F. H. MAY, C.M.G. (Captain Superintendent of Police).
Hon. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Treasurer).
Hon. R. D. ORMSBY (Director of Public Works).
Hon. C. P. CHATEL, C.M.G.
Hon. Dr. HO KAI.
Hon. E. R. BELILIOS, C.M.G.
Hon. WEI A YUK.
Mr. R. F. JOHNSTON (Acting Clerk of Councils.)

FINANCIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table Financial Minute No. 26 and proposed that it be referred to the Finance Committee.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded and the motion was carried.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table report of the Finance Committee (No. 10) and proposed its adoption.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded and the motion was carried.

THE HON. T. H. WHITEHEAD'S PROTEST.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE SANITARY BOARD.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—In pursuance of notice I now lay on the table a statement of my reasons for dissenting from the majority of the Council to the Appropriation Bill, and beg to give notice that at the next meeting of the Council I will ask the following questions:—"With reference to Government Notifications Nos. 653 and 654 of 25th inst, will the Hon. the Colonial Secretary inform the Council whether the Sanitary Board in future is to be constituted in accordance with The Public Health Ordinance No. 24 of 1887, sections 4 and 5, and if the nominated members are as formerly to be unofficial members of the civil community?"

THE DANGEROUS GOODS ORDINANCE.

On the motion of the ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL seconded by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, a Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the Dangerous Goods Ordinance, 1873, was read a first time.

LIQUOR LICENSE ORDINANCE.

The next item on the agenda was "First reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the Liquor Licenses Ordinance, 1898."

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg to move that the next item in the Orders of the Day be discharged, as I understand that there are some further amendments to be proposed to the Liquor Licensing Ordinance, and consequently I do not propose to proceed with the first reading to-day.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded and the motion was carried.

THE ARMS AMMUNITION BILL.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg to move the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend and consolidate the law relating to the carriage and possession of arms and ammunition. I will ask honourable members to turn to the statement of objects and reasons printed at the end of the Bill and which are as follow:—

"The trade in arms and ammunition in this colony has increased so much of late that it is thought desirable that it should be subjected to strict supervision, and the recent increase of armed robberies and piracies in the adjacent provinces of the Chinese Empire, to the detriment of our trade, has demonstrated the necessity for such strict supervision.

The present Bill, therefore, while it practically re-enacts many of the provisions of Ordinances 8 and 14 of 1895, which it repeals, includes certain entirely new provisions (marked new in the margin) which will now be briefly discussed."

"This Bill amends the existing law by rendering the possession of ammunition, as well as of arms, without a proper authority, illegal. (See clause 5.)

"By clause 4 of this Bill the issue of, and conditions to be attached to, licences to carry arms are vested in the Captain Superintendent of Police instead of as heretofore in the Governor. See too clause 11 of the Bill, which substitutes the Captain Superintendent of Police for the Registrar General in the case of licences to deal in arms and which gives power to the Captain Superintendent of Police (subject to an appeal to the Governor-in-Council) to refuse to grant or to cancel a licence.

"It has been thought expedient to re-enact section 6 of Ordinance 8 of 1895 in a somewhat modified form, so as to make the question whether a licence or export permit is required depend not upon the residence of the purchaser or the value of arms or ammunition sold, but upon the question whether the arms or ammunition are sold for use within the colony or for export from the colony.

"It has been found by experience that purchasers and sellers of arms do not always export these arms by the vessel named in the export permit, but sometimes divert the arms to other secret purposes, and it has, therefore, been thought expedient to check this practice by the following new provisions:—(1) By compelling a vendor of arms or ammunition for the purposes of export to procure a mate's receipt for them. (Clause 7.) (2) By providing for the registration of places where arms or ammunition are stored or to be stored. (Clause 11.) (3) By compelling dealers to keep a stock book and a sales book and by empowering the Police to inspect and compare these books. (Clauses 13, 14 and 15.) (4) By rendering a purchaser of arms or ammunition, who supplies false particulars to a vendor, liable to punishment. (Clause 17.)

"The following very necessary new provisions are also included in this Bill, namely:—(1) The prohibition of the movement of arms or ammunition within the colony or the waters thereof (except for the purpose of export under an export permit) without a removal permit. (Clause 8.) (2) The prohibition of the storing of arms or ammunition except at the places registered for that purpose. (Clause 12.) (3) The prohibition against the importation of arms or ammunition except at the port of Victoria. (Clause 18.) (4) The labelling of arms and ammunition. (Clause 19.) (5) The power of the Police to open boxes or packages. (Clause 30.) (6) An extended power of forfeiting arms and ammunition in respect of which an offence has been committed. (Clause 29.) and (7) An entirely new power of forfeiting arms and ammunition which are without any apparent owner. (Clause 30.)

"Clause 11 of the Bill raises the annual licence fee of dealers in arms to \$1,200 per year instead of \$10 (except in the case of retail dealers for sporting purposes only, who are to pay the same licence fee as heretofore), because it is thought that, in a responsible business like this, a substantial licence fee ought to be paid.

"A very necessary proviso is introduced to the effect that arms or ammunition moved by land or water in the colony should be enclosed in secure boxes and labelled (Clause 19.)

"It may be mentioned that penalties for breaches of the law are in some instances rendered more severe. (Compare section 28 with section 2 of Ordinance 14 of 1895, and section 16 with section 12 and 13 of Ordinance 8 of 1895.)

"In conclusion, it may be noted that officers of a foreign nation are restricted, if they have no licence, to the carriage of weapons of ceremony worn as part of their regular uniform, and that the privilege of carrying arms without a licence has been taken away from common jurors. A case occurred in which a common juror abused that privilege."

Continuing, the ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL said—I should like to add, sir, with reference to the question of common jurors, as I do not know whether the Bill is sufficiently understood by the public, that it is always open for a common juror to apply to the Captain Superintendent of Police, under clause 4 of this Bill, for a licence to carry or possess arms and ammunition, and no doubt in any case where such an application appeared to be reasonable the Captain Superintendent would grant the person

applying a licence to carry arms and ammunition, and there is no fee payable at all for the issue of the licence. I may mention, sir, that there are no less than 711 common jurors on the jury list in this colony, and I think it seems rather curious that they should have what I may call an absolute right to carry arms and ammunition, and I understand that the Captain Superintendent of Police is of opinion that it is not advisable that common jurors should have an absolute right to carry arms and ammunition, though no doubt in every case where it seems reasonable that the privilege should be accorded to a common juror the Captain Superintendent of Police will issue a licence for that purpose. While on this point I may say that clause 4 of this Bill vests the power to issue licences in the Captain Superintendent of Police, a power which has hitherto been vested in the Governor. I do not know whether it will be thought desirable to give any power to appeal from the Captain Superintendent of Police to the Governor in Council in respect of the exercise of the discretion mentioned in clause 4. Honourable members will see from clause 11 that in the case of importers or dealers applying for a licence it is provided that there can be an appeal from the decision of the Captain Superintendent of Police to the Governor-in-Council. It is a matter for the consideration of members whether such a provision should be inserted in clause 4 or not. With these remarks I beg to move the second reading.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Dr. HO KAI—I move as an amendment that the second reading of the Bill be postponed for a fortnight for these reasons: First on the introduction of the Bill a petition was presented to your Excellency from the Chinese dealers in arms in the colony in respect of this Bill, and I understand that no reply has been given to that petition. Secondly, although the Bill affects 13 Chinese dealers in arms in this colony no translation of the Bill has been made. In the absence of an answer to the petition, which was presented on the 8th of July last, the petitioners did not know that the Bill was coming on again, and it was only when, as they alleged, they saw it in the paper the day before yesterday that they were made aware that the Bill was coming on again. Since the Bill was read a first time at the last meeting of the Council they have begun to make some enquiries and have had a meeting among themselves to consider the Bill. They came to me only yesterday and showed me a copy of their petition, and this morning I received a letter signed by ten of them detailing some objections to the Bill, which objections of course I have not had time to consider as yet. Therefore I think that as the Bill, from the statement of the Attorney-General, contains a good many new sections, and as the fee payable by importers or dealers has been raised from \$10 to \$1,200, I think that Chinese dealers should be given a little more time, so that a translation of the Bill could be made and they could consider it. For these reasons I ask that the second reading should be postponed for a fortnight.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I thought your Excellency would have no objection to granting a postponement, so that these Chinese arms dealers might become better acquainted with the Bill. The request seems to me to be a reasonable one.

His EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR—I have no objection whatever, if the Council has no objection.

The COLONIAL TREASURER suggested that the question of a postponement could be suggested when the committee stage was reached.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I understand that the main object is to get a fortnight's extra time.

His EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR—Can you tell me whether there was any answer to the petition?

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—No, sir, but I think the petition was laid upon the table by the honourable member for the Chamber of Commerce. There was a similar provision in the Arms and Ammunition Bill which has not been proceeded with to that in the Bill the second reading of which I have just moved.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I think that under the circumstances the postponement asked for is very reasonable.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—There is only one point in regard to a postponement. I do not know whether the honourable member could be ready sooner than a fortnight. My time as Acting Attorney-General is very short now. Sir John Carrington is expected back early in January, and there are the Criminal Sessions and Christmas and New Year intervening.

His EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR—Suppose we take the second reading now. I am quite sure that after what the honourable member has said the Council would not go into committee on the Bill at present, and if that course is followed I do not think there would be much time lost by giving the Chinese community an opportunity of stating fully their ideas. Of course if the honourable member wishes to offer an objection to the principle of the Bill it can only be done at the second reading.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—Kindly let me say a word in support of what has fallen from the senior member for the Chinese, as I have not had the opportunity of consulting with those whom I represent and who are in the trade. On a former occasion when the matter was before the Council it was referred to a Commission. That Commission took evidence which was printed and circulated but no report was sent in. Before the second reading of this Bill I should like to have the opportunity of consulting with those whom I represent and who are in the trade on the matter, and I would ask for a month's adjournment.

His EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR—The Attorney-General wants to get the Bill through this year.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—May I ask if the colony of Macao are going to follow a similar course?

His EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR—I do not know at all. With the permission of the Council, we will postpone the Bill.

The second reading was accordingly postponed for a fortnight.

THE NEW TERRITORIES LAND COURT ORDINANCE.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg to move the second reading of the Bill entitled the New Territories Land Court Ordinance, 1899. Honourable members will see from the objects and reasons attached to the Bill that:—

"This Bill is framed to a considerable extent upon the lines of the Squatters' Ordinance, (Ordinance 27 of 1890), which has been found to work satisfactorily.

"The chief aim of this Bill is to provide owners and occupiers of land in the New Territories with a tribunal to which they can appeal, without incurring the expense of resorting to the Supreme Court, and to arrange amicably questions of disputed title and land and rent disputes generally.

"It is proposed by this Bill to substitute a certificate of title for a Crown lease, because it has been ascertained that the ordinary holding of land in the New Territories is a tenancy in perpetuity, and this Government could not, under the terms of the Convention with China, grant a lease for more than 99 years from the date of the Convention.

"Clause 15 of the Bill contains special provisions for the commutation of rent in produce into a payment of rent in money, calculated upon the fair price of such produce. Provision for such commutation appears to be necessary in order to avoid friction between landlord and tenant and to induce the tenant to cultivate the land to the best advantage.

"Clause 16 of the Bill provides for the redemption of rent in produce, when such rent is payable in perpetuity, by the payment of a capital sum of money.

"Clause 17 provides that, in any agreement made on and after the 31st day of January, 1900, (which is the first day of the next Chinese year), no rent in produce shall be reserved.

"The object of clause 18 is to settle disputes in cases (*inter alia*) where a man, who is adjudged to have no proper title, has been occupying and improving land and where he appears to be equitably entitled to continue to occupy such land upon his paying such a rent as is fair and reasonable, having regard to such improvements."

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was carried.

THE MERCHANT SHIPPING LAWS.

The Council went into Committee on the Bill entitled an Ordinance to consolidate and amend the Law relating to Merchant Shipping, the duties of the Harbour Master, the control and management of the waters of the colony, and the regulation of vessels navigating the same.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I would like to draw attention to clause 41 of the Standing Orders, which says:—"When a Bill shall have been referred to, and reported on by, one of the Standing Committees appointed under Rule 48, and it shall be certified by the Chairman of such Standing Committee that such Bill has been considered clause by clause in the presence of all the Members of such Standing Committee at least and that, in the opinion of the Committee, such Bill may be dealt with by the Council in the same manner as a Bill reported on by a Committee of the whole Council, such Bill may be dealt with accordingly if no Member object, but if any Member object the Bill shall be dealt with in the same manner as a Bill reported on by a Special Committee." This Bill, sir, has been considered by the Standing Law Committee, which has held no less than eight sittings to consider it. It has been reported by me as chairman of the Standing Law Committee that at such meetings the Bill was considered clause by clause in the presence of all the members of such Standing Law Committee, and that in the opinion of such Standing Law Committee such Bill may be dealt with by the Council in the same manner as a Bill reported on by a committee of the whole Council. Therefore, unless any honourable member has any objection, I would propose that the Bill be dealt with as a Bill reported on by a committee of the whole Council, and I move that the amendments suggested by the committee be adopted.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—May I ask if the suggestions from the Chamber of Commerce have been embodied?

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—Some of them have been embodied but not all. I can assure the honourable member that all the suggestions of the Chamber of Commerce were very carefully considered indeed.

The motion was carried.

The marginal notes were then read and the Bill passed through the committee stage without comment.

The Council then resumed.

The Council adjourned until Thursday next.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held immediately after the Council meeting, the Colonial Secretary presiding.

The CHAIRMAN—I have only one financial minute to bring before the Committee to-day, and that is one in which the Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of four thousand dollars in aid of the vote "Maintenance of Buildings." With regard to this vote the honourable the Director of Public Works reports that "extensive works of renewal at Government House have rendered the increase necessary. The total amount of the vote is \$30,000, and of this \$10,600-90 has been spent on Government House. It is obvious that a vote intended to cover the maintenance of buildings numbering about 165 in all could not bear so large a vote in respect of one building. I estimate that a further sum of \$4,000 will be required to defray the charges incurred in the vote, and I therefore request that a supplemental vote for that sum be obtained. I may add that I expect there will be a corresponding saving under miscellaneous works."

The vote was agreed to.

This was all the business.

The cases of communicable disease reported last week were one of diphtheria, three of enteric fever, two of puerperal fever, and one death from plague, the latter case having been reported on the 15th November.

A telegram from Raub, dated 16th November, states:—"Bukit Koman. No. 1 North Engine Shaft. Have struck reef carrying good gold. Average width of lode is 9 feet. Consider this very important."

SUPREME COURT.

27th Nov.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR W. MEIGH GOODMAN (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE CENTRAL STORES OF SHANGHAI LIMITED AND REDUCED.

Mr. Pollock (instructed by Mr. Wei On, of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes, and Master) said he appeared for the Central Stores of Shanghai, Limited and Reduced, who were applying to the court under section 11, Ordinance 1 of 1877, which said:—"A company which has passed a special resolution for reducing its capital may apply to the court by petition for an order confirming the reduction, and on the hearing of the petition the court—if satisfied that with respect to every creditor of the company who, under the provisions of this Ordinance, is entitled to object to the reduction, either his consent to the reduction has been obtained or his debt or claim has been discharged or has determined or has been secured as hereinafter provided—may make an order confirming the reduction on such terms and subject to such conditions as it deems fit." His Lordship would see that the petition was presented by the company to the court on the 14th September last, and directions had been obtained with regard to ascertaining who were the creditors of the company. An affidavit had been filed by Mr. Edney Page to the effect that on the 1st November there was no claim against the company other than the accounts of the current month, which did not exceed \$2,500, and that there was to the balance of the company in the Bank more than that sum available with which to pay the debts.

His Lordship granted the order asked for.

The resolution His Lordship was asked to confirm was one reducing the capital of the Company from \$200,000 to \$91,845.

29th November

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HON. W. MEIGH GOODMAN (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE) and HIS HON. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

SHELTON HOOPER APPELLANT V. BRETT RESPONDENT.

This was an appeal brought by Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, Secretary of the Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Co., Limited, against the decision of Mr. H. Gompertz, Acting Police Magistrate, who had imposed a fine of \$10 in each case in consequence of certain houses (nine in number) in Sun Street and Moon Street owned by the Company not having been lime-washed during the months of July and August last. Sanitary Inspector Brett, who laid the information against Mr. Hooper, was the respondent.

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Messrs. Deacon and Hastings) appeared for appellant and the Hon. H. E. Pollock, Acting Attorney-General (instructed by Mr. Bowley, Acting Crown Solicitor) for respondent.

Mr. Francis said this was an appeal from the decision of the Magistrate on a question of law. The appeal was from a conviction made under the provisions of the Public Health Ordinance, No. 24 of 1887, section 13, and the bye-law made by the Sanitary Board thereunder, this section enabling the Sanitary Board to make bye-law with reference to the whitewashing of premises. On the 13th of August, 1896, the Sanitary Board made a bye-law to the effect that any house or block of houses occupied by members of more than one family should, unless specially exempted by the Sanitary Board, be cleansed and lime-washed by "the owner" to the satisfaction of the Board not less than twice every year. The case turned on the meaning of the word "owner." This bye-law was approved by the Legislative Council on the 3rd December, 1896. The appellant in this case was served with nine summonses and called upon to answer why he should not be punished for not having whitewashed certain premises in Sun Street and Moon Street during the months of July and August last as required

by the said bye law. Mr. Hooper was convicted and fined \$10 in respect of each of these nine houses, so that he submitted in the first place that this was in fact an appeal from nine separate and distinct convictions.

The Acting Chief Justice—What you really want is a decision as to whether "the owner" in that bye-law came under the definition or not given in the Public Health Ordinance. In the Public Health Ordinance it says, "any house-owner, or the person for the time being receiving the rent of any premises, solely or as joint tenant, or tenant in common with others, or receiving the rent of any premises whether on his own behalf or that of any other person or where the owner cannot be found or ascertained the occupier, and for the purpose of this Ordinance every mortgagee in possession shall be deemed an owner."

Mr. Francis—That is practically the substance of the whole case.

The PUISNE JUDGE—Is there any further question about Mr. Shelton Hooper's personal responsibility?

Mr. Francis—That arises on the very face of the decision.

Mr. Pollock contended that that was not so.

Mr. Francis said their Lordships would observe that the Magistrate had found it as a fact that the Land Investment Company were the owners of these premises. There was no finding of fact with reference to Mr. Shelton Hooper, and yet the Magistrate convicted him after recording the Land Investment Company were the owners of these premises. He submitted that the conviction of Mr. Hooper recorded in this case was impossible.

The Acting Chief Justice—That is not the point taken here. We have to give our opinion on the point of law as to whether the Land Investment Company are the owners in the meaning of the Ordinance.

Mr. Francis repeated that the finding was that the Land Investment Company were the owners and yet Mr. Hooper, against whom there was no such finding, was convicted.

The Acting Chief Justice said the Land Investment Company appeared by Mr. Hooper, and if Mr. Hooper was not prepared to take the consequences he should have taken an objection and asked that instead of his being summoned the Company should be summoned.

The point was further argued, but their Lordships held to their previous ruling that the only point of law submitted to them was as to the meaning of the word "owner" as used in the Ordinance, and consequently the other point was allowed to drop.

Mr. Francis, continuing his address, said the word "owner" meant the person who had the power in his own hands of disposing of the property as he pleased within the limits of his rights, whatever they might happen to be. There might be a number of persons in succession—whether it was six or whether it was two—who might be fairly designated as the owners of the property as they were in receipt of rents and profits out of that property, and they would have to select which of these persons was intended by Ordinance to be made responsible. In the first place there was the Crown. Of course apart from the operation of the general rule that the Crown was not affected or bound by Ordinances unless specially mentioned the Crown was as much the owner in reversion of this house and ground as the Land Investment Company. The Land Investment Company had got a lease from the Crown and within the terms of the lease had the power of disposing of that property as it pleased. The Company had parted with the whole of its interests and power of control and right to interfere for a limited number of years, that was, five years, to another person Chu Wa. Chu Wa was the person who had the management and control and the actual letting of the houses. He received and collected the rents from the tenants in actual occupation, and he submitted to their lordships that for the purpose of this Ordinance, in common parlance and common sense, that man was the owner for the time being of these houses. Mr. Francis proceeded to quote cases in support of his contention.

Mr. Pollock submitted that no case cited by his learned friend would really assist the court in determining the present question, because the words "any house-owner or" did not occur in any of the interpretation clauses in the cases

cited by his learned friend, and there did not occur in these interpretation clauses anything to show that the rent must be received from the occupier of the premises: and he would submit to their Lordships that even if the words "Any house owner or" had not been inserted the Land Investment Company were the persons who were in receipt of the rent of the premises within the meaning of the interpretation clause of Ordinance 24 of 1887. He would submit that these words "house owner or" must have been inserted for a special object and that in ordinary parlance the person who simply held a short sub-lease could not be described as the owner. In conclusion he submitted that the Land Investment Company were the owners in the ordinary sense of the term, and therefore that the decision of the Magistrate should be upheld.

The Acting Chief Justice—We will give written judgment.

30th November.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE
(PUISNE JUDGE).

ULLMAN V. KHAN.

In this case Messrs. J. Ullmann and Co., watchmakers, jewellers, etc., 74, Queen's Road, sought to recover from R. Khan, who was formerly in their employ, the sum of \$904.50, for loss sustained through defendant and money lent.

Mr. Grist (Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for plaintiff and Mr. Bruton (Messrs. Mounsey and Bruton) for defendant.

Mr. Grist said defendant was formerly in the employ of plaintiff. Some time before July 29th, 1898, through default of defendant plaintiff lost \$822.82. On the date named a statement of accounts was made between plaintiff and defendants showing that amount due. That statement had of course been slightly altered since that time, plaintiff having deducted so much from defendant's salary while he remained in his employ. The accounts on the 29th July last year showed \$822.82 for loss and \$150 for money lent.

His Lordship observed that he saw \$81.68. That made up the total of plaintiff's claim when added to the \$822.82.

Mr. Grist said he took it that his friend admitted the correctness of the account. On the 29th November he received a letter from defendant's solicitor intimating that \$81.68 had been paid in. That was equal to admission, it being a letter in respect of the whole claim. It was a pleading, as it were, and was part of the suit. By that he was stopped from setting up a special defence, which he had afterwards submitted, that was, the defence of illegality or want of consideration. He submitted that the account was an account stated between the parties and that it was not competent for his friend to come forward and set up this defence.

Mr. E. Bernheim, a partner in the firm of Ullmann and Co., produced an interpretation of the account, and from this it appeared that defendant signed a document showing that by a fault in an invoice the firm lost \$822.82 on goods shipped to Shanghai.

Mr. Bruton said this was a sort of smuggling game which had been going on for some time, and plaintiffs were trying to make his client responsible for losses sustained while endeavouring to smuggle.

Mr. Grist said that this was not so. Defendant himself deliberately telegraphed to Shanghai to try and give away his employers. In fact he did give them away and he received a commission from the Customs for it. He did not want to go into this dirty linen question.

His Lordship—I think it is better this dirty linen question should not be gone into.

In answer to his Lordship, Mr. Bruton said his client could not deny that he had signed the document, adding, "He would not admit it."

His Lordship said that as the case stood they were bound by the document unless they could go behind it. If he had taken Mr. Bruton by surprise and prevented him from going on with the case as he had intended he would adjourn it.

The case was adjourned until Monday next.

IN BANKRUPTCY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HON. W. MEIGH GOODMAN
(ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE.)

RE F. L. PEREIRA.

Mr. Grist applied on behalf of the debtor for the rescinding of a receiving order. He asked the court to give judgment for the amount of the claim proved, and pointed out that the application was made with the consent of the bankrupt. All the creditors had received notice and had consented and signed for the discharge of the debtor.

The Official Receiver (Mr. Bruce Shepherd) supported the application, and suggested that debtor be asked formally to consent to judgment.

Debtor did this.

Accordingly an order rescinding the receiving order was made, and the Official Receiver was asked to enter judgment for \$1,473— the assessed amount,—payments to be made at the rate of \$40 per month.

THE TRANSVAAL WAR RELIEF FUND.

HELP FOR THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS.

MEETING OF BRITISH SUBJECTS.

On the invitation of His Excellency the Governor (Sir Henry Blake, G.C.M.G.), a meeting was held on Monday at noon in the Chamber of Commerce Room at the City Hall "to consider means for the collection and transmission of subscriptions in aid of the Patriotic Fund, for the widows and orphans of our sailors and soldiers who have given their lives for their country in the Transvaal War, and on behalf of wives and families, not otherwise provided for, of those men who have gone on active service in South Africa."

The chair was occupied by His Excellency the Governor, who was supported by H.E. Major-General Goscoigne, C.M.G. (Commanding the Troops), the Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, C.M.G. (Colonial Secretary), the Hon. W. Meigh Goodman (Acting Chief Justice), and Sir Thomas Jackson. There was a large attendance and the meeting was most enthusiastic throughout. Those present included representatives from the Army and Navy (among these being Rear-Admiral Fitzgerald and Colonel the O'Gorman) and different sections of the civil community including a number of ladies.

SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY
THE GOVERNOR.

His EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR said—Ladies and gentlemen, we have met here in pursuance of the notice which appeared in the papers for the purpose, I won't say of inaugurating, but of continuing the fund which has already been inaugurated by the opening of the columns of the *China Mail* to subscriptions for the wives and families who are not on the strength of the regiments that have gone to the Transvaal. It appeared to some gentlemen to whom I have spoken that it might be well that the British community in Hongkong should have an opportunity of coming together and concerting measures for making a more complete effort to obtain subscriptions for the purpose for which that subscription list was opened. We go a little further, because we have also asked you to come here for the purpose of subscribing to the Patriotic Fund which has been established, I think, by the Lord Mayor. Well, we were not certain whether the Patriotic Fund covered the whole ground, so by the courtesy of the Eastern Telegraph Company I was enabled to ask from London the scope of the Patriotic Fund. This is the answer:—"Fund embraces widows, orphans, and other dependents of officers and men. For sick and wounded while under treatment. For soldiers and sailors disabled by wounds. For benefit after leaving service. For wives and children left behind, and those not on the strength." (Applause.) Therefore, the Patriotic Fund as distributed in London would cover the whole ground and I suggest that any subscriptions we may give to-day and that our fellow British subject may give hereafter—it may be well that such

fund be sent as a contribution from Hongkong to the Patriotic Fund for distribution by them. I think it is hardly necessary for me to say much on the subject we are assembled to consider. You know we are engaged in a struggle, that our soldiers have gone to the front, that they are doing their duty manfully, and it remains for us to do ours. We know that when the fiat had gone forth and when it was decided that England, that the Empire, had to enter upon this struggle, from every part of the Empire, from the Far East and from the Far West, from the North and from the South, the British people came forward manfully and offered their assistance to the Imperial Government. (Applause.) Hongkong has not been behind in that offer, and although the number of men offered by Hongkong was small it bore as large a proportion to our available Volunteer force as that offered by any other colony in the British empire. (Applause.) While it was not necessary to accept that offer there is another way in which we can do our duty. We can show to our soldiers who are fighting so bravely in the Transvaal and in South Africa, that not alone is the sword ready to leap from the scabbard in every part of our great empire when necessary, but that the hearts of the people have gone out to our soldiers, that they beat in sympathy with them, and that not alone do they beat in sympathy but we are also ready to give that assistance that they have a right to expect, to give that heartfelt sympathy and assistance to those dear ones whom they have left behind them. (Applause.) We feel that it is our duty that when the bitter parting takes place, as it has taken place in so many cases, from those whom they leave behind them, that at least the soldier should feel the assuagement of knowing that whether his wife or children are on the strength of the regiment or not the British public will not allow them to feel want. All honour to our sailors and soldiers who are so bravely upholding the honour of our flag in South Africa. We have no fear whatever as to the ultimate result. We know that there will be great loss of life, that many brave men have been laid low, like General Symens, who was buried in a manner befitting a soldier, shrouded in the flag of his country. We know that while many will sleep their last sleep in South Africa, those who remain will always remember when they come back that at the time of trouble they were not forgotten, and the wives of those who have fallen will have the feeling that all round the world wherever this empire reaches they have had the heartfelt sympathy and help of those who are able to assist them. (Applause.) I will not detain you longer on this subject. I am perfectly certain that the people of Hongkong, the British subjects in Hongkong, will be ready to come forward, as they always have come forward, generously, to support the subscription list, and I have no doubt that when the amount is made up and sent home Hongkong will have no reason to be ashamed of the evidence she has given of active sympathy with our soldiers who are fighting the battles of our country. (Applause.) I am happy to tell you with reference to this subscription which we propose to open that Mr. Walton called upon me to-day and asked me to mention that he wished to subscribe \$200. (Applause.) I suggest for the purpose of this meeting, that the meeting should appoint a committee, and it would be for the committee to settle exactly what they will do. I have gone no further myself than simply acting as the instrument to call you together. I know you will arrange yourselves what is best to be done. I wish now to congratulate the editor of the *China Mail* upon the early move he made in this matter in opening his columns for the subscriptions. (Applause.) Mr. Stewart Lockhart, I am sure, will have great pleasure in acting as Secretary for this fund. (Mr. Lockhart acquiesced.) Thank you, Mr. Stewart Lockhart. And I dare say the community will feel every confidence that in his hands the secretarial work of this business will be properly carried out. (Applause.) I will now suggest that some gentleman should propose the other names. The number is for you to settle. I would suggest that the meeting now proceed to appoint a Committee to carry out the object for which we are assembled to-day. (Applause.) And now, having said so much perhaps I may

be permitted to suggest that if Sir Thomas Jackson will kindly undertake the duties of Treasurer he be appointed Treasurer (Applause.)

Sir THOMAS JACKSON—Your Excellency. I shall have great pleasure in acting as Treasurer. (Applause.)

MAJOR-GENERAL GASCOIGNE ON THE PATRIOTIC FUND.

H.E. Major-General GASCOIGNE said—Your Excellency, ladies and gentlemen, I think the proposal of His Excellency the Governor is a very good one indeed, that a Committee should be formed to decide about this. As I understand it—you will correct me if I am wrong—the original subscriptions that were made in the *China Mail*, and were started—all honour to him—by an officer in the Navy I wish we knew his name—were started not for those who are on the strength but for the widows or wives of soldiers who are married without leave. (Applause.) I think it was specially mentioned more or less that that was the original intention. At any rate, I was one of the subscribers and certainly my subscription was more intended for those who are not on the strength than for those who are. At the present time the wives of married men on the strength are, practically speaking, well looked after. They are looked after by the Government. In the first place they get a regular fixed separation allowance, and although I do not mean to say that many of them are not, of course, in straightened circumstances owing to the war, yet they are not destitute. They have the fixed allowance from the Government, and in case the husband dies they have a sum of money given them by the Government. Also, at the present day—I am speaking only of the army, because I only know of the army—at the present day there is no doubt about it, that married officers' wives take an immense interest in the families of the soldiers of their regiment. (Applause.) During my years of service I have seen no greater change than in this respect. Consequently, on a regiment going on active service the people who are known, those who are on the strength—although, as I say, they may be in straightened circumstances—are provided for to a certain extent. But there is the very large number of those who are married without leave, and although we make it a rule in the Army not to encourage men to marry without leave, because it is from many points of view objectionable, yet at the same time it exists to a very large extent, and those poor women have nobody at all to bring their cases prominently into notice. As His Excellency the Governor has mentioned that the Patriotic Fund is devoted to, among other things, those who are married without leave, I am delighted to hear it, but it is new to me, and I think it will be new to a great number of officers also with whom I have discussed the matter. I can only say that this Patriotic Fund to my knowledge certainly has been a very difficult fund indeed to get money out of, and that for years past it has swollen to an enormous extent. A very very large sum of money was raised during the Crimean War for the benefit of the families of those who fell in that war, and the balance remaining after claims had been provided for was capitalised, and that is what is known as the Patriotic Fund. It amounts as the present time, or rather at the end of 1898 it amounted to £207,000, and the expenditure was £20,000. Certainly we have not apparently to our knowledge in the army got a great deal of benefit out of it except with a great deal of difficulty. It is a new thing to me certainly to know that poor women who are not on strength of the regiment can bring their cases prominently before the dispensers of the Fund. It can only I think be a few who are lucky enough to have people sufficiently influential to know of their existence to bring their cases before the Patriotic Fund. Therefore, gentlemen, I would like to ask you whether or not the money thus voted here is intended to be capitalised—for I believe it will result very much in that if it is paid into the Patriotic Fund—or whether your wishes are that the money you are kind enough to vote should be more or less devoted to those who are sufferers at the present time, and, as I understood the originator of the Fund to mean, to those who have no means of bringing their cases prominently before the

public. (Applause.) I thought it was only right that you should understand from me exactly what my views and my belief is. Of course if a second fund were got up I should be only too glad to take part in the new fund, but I confess my sympathies at the present moment, as I have endeavoured to lay before you, are with those who have no means of bringing their cases prominently before those who could bring their cases before the Patriotic Fund. I hope I have made myself clear. (Applause.)

H. E. the GOVERNOR—I think the General is rather mistaken about the Patriotic Fund. It is a very natural mistake to make. The fund in London to which it was proposed to send this money is not the old Patriotic Fund. The old Patriotic Fund is the fund which was subscribed at the time of the Crimean War much in the same way as this fund is now being subscribed, and after all the expenses had been met it was found a very large sum of money remained. That sum of money has been capitalised and has been used, apparently with great economy, as the General has shown us, for cases that have come before them since that time. This is a special fund raised by the Lord Mayor for the purposes mentioned in this telegram. It has nothing to do, I take it, with the old Patriotic Fund, which was placed in the hands of Trustees and has been managed for a great many years by Commissioners. This special fund is for these purposes, which I will read again to you, and which is being got up at the present moment under the auspices of the Lord Mayor of London. I asked the question specially having regard to the fact that there was a large amount of money subscribed for the express purpose which the General stated, as I thought it was important to know this in order that the Committee might decide in what way to deal with the money. (His Excellency again read the telegram.) These are the people for whom this special subscription is being raised, and it is well to know that these people will come under the operation of this fund. We shall have a meeting of the Committee afterwards to talk it over.

MR. J. J. FRANCIS, Q.C., MAKES A SUGGESTION.

Mr. J. J. FRANCIS, Q.C., called attention to the fact that there was in existence a Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association. He ventured to suggest that it would be more in accordance with the idea with which Mr. Bain, of the *China Mail*, started the subscription, that the money raised in Hongkong should be remitted to that Association for distribution and not remitted to the Patriotic Fund, as they had no certainty in forwarding it to the latter fund that it would reach the people intended. He suggested that there should be two funds. The fund started by the *China Mail* should be sent to the Soldiers' and Sailors' Institution for distribution and another subscription list be opened for the Fund of the Lord Mayor.

AN EXPLANATION FROM SIR THOMAS JACKSON.

Sir THOMAS JACKSON—I would like to point out that calling this fund a Patriotic Fund was my own idea. I have reason to believe that the fund being raised in London is called the Mansion House Fund and has no connection whatever with the old Patriotic Fund. I think it might be inadvisable to start two funds and run them concurrently—one for the original idea and the other to go straight to the Mansion House Fund. We know very well that anything we would send to the Mansion House they would have perfect organization for the distribution of; if we sent it through other channels it might not be so well administered. At all events this Transvaal war has taken such a hold of the country, I am perfectly sure the best men in the country would see that this Mansion House Fund is administered and funds given to the most deserving cases. I think we can have every confidence in sending the main portion of our subscriptions to the Mansion House Fund. You have been good enough to ask me to say something about the Committee. We would like to have a Committee not too unwieldy, but at the same time representative I would suggest—H.E. the Governor (Chairman), Major-General Gascoigne, C.M.G., Commodore Powell, R.N., C.B., Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, C.M.G., (Hon. Secretary); Sir Thomas Jackson (Hon. Treasurer); the Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council,

Messrs. R. M. Gray, David Gillies, A. McConachie, D. R. Crawford, G. Murray Bain, J. J. Francis, H. N. Mody, J. A. Raymond, D. M. Moses, Ho Tung Tung, Fung Wa Chuen, with power to add to their number. If we find we have left out any person who wishes to take part we will be glad to have their names. I have agreed to undertake the duties of Honorary Treasurer. I need scarcely say I have my hands pretty full of other work, and I would be very glad indeed have some volunteers here to help in the collection.

ADMIRAL FITZGERALD SPEAKS ON BEHALF OF THE NAVY.

Admiral FITZGERALD said—Ladies and gentlemen, His Excellency has asked me to say a few words on behalf of the Navy. I have great pleasure in rising to speak to the motion so eloquently put before you by His Excellency and so ably seconded by the General. I am sure the Navy will be very glad to know that the original idea was started by a naval officer. I am proud to note that a little detachment of sailors is fighting side by side with those gallant soldiers who are upholding the honour of their country in the Transvaal. (Applause.) I am sure I can promise you the moral support of the Navy and shall be very much surprised if you do not also have their material support. I shall not attempt to enter into the technicalities of how the fund is to be distributed. Sir Thomas Jackson has told us he has perfect confidence in the distribution of the fund at home, and I feel sure we shall have perfect confidence in whatever Sir Thomas Jackson tells us in that respect. (Applause.)

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE.

His EXCELLENCY then submitted the names of the committee for adoption, adding—I assume that you are all satisfied with that Committee, but if any gentleman in the meeting would like to propose any further name I shall be glad if he would propose it, and in the event of the Committee wishing to add to their number they shall have power to do so.

The Committee were elected without addition.

His EXCELLENCY then invited the meeting to decide as to what fund the money should be contributed to.

The Hon. H. E. POLLOCK proposed that the fund be devoted exclusively "to those widows and children who are not on the strength of the regiments."

Mr. DANBY seconded.

The Hon. R. D. ORMSBY suggested that they invite subscriptions in three columns—one for the widows and children not on the strength, one for the Mansion House Fund, and one for a fund leaving it to the Committee to decide for what purpose.

Mr. D. R. CRAWFORD seconded.

Major-General GASCOIGNE said it might perhaps help to a definite decision, as he was the one who struck the first note, if he said that the explanation he had received that the Patriotic Fund was not to be considered as the old Patriotic Fund entirely met with his approval. He had complete confidence that the fund would be thoroughly well administered.

Mr. MURRAY BAIN—Your Excellency, ladies and gentlemen, I may mention with regard to the original fund, that if there are to be two funds, it could not be carried on by the *China Mail*. We have already asked Sir Thomas Jackson to take it over, and I have no desire to have a rival fund to the Patriotic Fund. As advised by most of the contributors to our fund I shall be prepared to hand over that fund to the Patriotic Fund after the explanations that have been made.

Ultimately the Hon. W. M. GOODMAN proposed that there be only one fund and that the money be sent to the Mansion House Fund.

Sir THOMAS JACKSON seconded.

The motions were put to the meeting in turn, and the motion proposed by Hon. W. M. Goodman that the money be sent to the Mansion House Fund was carried by a large majority.

On the motion of Sir THOMAS JACKSON, a vote of thanks was accorded His Excellency the Governor for presiding.

MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE.

On Wednesday at noon a meeting of the committee appointed at the meeting held at the City

Hall on Monday for the purpose of devising means to assist the wives and families of our soldiers and sailors in South Africa was held in the Council Chamber at the Government Offices.

His Excellency the Governor (Sir Henry Blake, G.C.M.G.) occupied the chair, and there were also present H.E. Major General Gascoigne, C.M.G., Sir Thomas Jackson (Hon. Treasurer), Vice-Admiral Fitzgerald, Commodore Powell, R.N., C.B., Colonel The O'Gorman, the Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart C.M.G. (Honorary Secretary), Colonel Elsdale, Major Long, the Hon. Captain Trefusis, Viscount Suidale, the Hon. R. D. Ormsby, Hon. C. P. Chater, C.M.G., Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, Hon. E. B. Belilios, C.M.G., Hon. Wei A Yuk, Messrs. D. R. Crawford, Murray Bain, D. M. Moses, W. Danby, A. J. Raymond, A. McConachie, D. Gillies, and Fung Wa Chuen.

The Hon. SECRETARY said two letters of apology had been received for non-attendance, one being from Mr. Pollock and the other from Mr. Francis. The latter offered his services to the treasurer to collect subscriptions from members of the legal profession.

His EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR said—Gentlemen, you will remember that when I addressed you at the meeting on Monday I read a telegram which had been sent in answer to an enquiry as to the scope of the fund inaugurated by the Lord Mayor of London, that telegram being as follows:—“Fund embraces widows, orphans, and other dependents of officers and men. For sick and wounded while under treatment. For oldiers and sailors disabled by wounds. For benefit after leaving service. For wives and children left behind, and those not on the strength.” In consequence of this information it was decided that the money collected in Hongkong should be simply sent to the Mansion House, and that its distribution should be left to a considerable extent to the discretion of the people there, with an expression of opinion from this committee as to what should be done. At the meeting on Monday you will remember that General Gascoigne appeared to have some objection to the money being placed in the Patriotic Fund. However, I dare say most of you will have seen the letter in to-day *Daily Press*—copied from the *London Times*—which really gives the views of the Lord Mayor as to what he is going to do with the fund. In that letter the Lord Mayor says:—“I therefore propose, in order to give the public the widest scope for their benevolence, that contributions for widows, orphans, and other dependents of those who may lose their lives shall be handed to the Patriotic Fund Commission for administration; those for sick and wounded while under treatment to the British Red Cross Society; those for soldiers disabled by wounds (for their benefit after they leave the service) to that excellent organization Lloyd's Patriotic Fund, founded in the City in 1803; and those for wives and children separated to the Soldiers and Sailors' Families' Association. All contributions should, therefore, be clearly indicated by donors as follows:—(1) Widows and orphans; (2) sick and wounded; (3) disabled soldiers; (4) wives and children. Any not marked will be handed over for the benefit of widows and orphans, as it is upon the Duke of Cambridge's appeal that I ask the public to give liberally.” That is the scope of the fund. You see from the Lord Mayor's letter that the contributors to the fund will be given every opportunity of selecting what shall be done with their money. I take it that this money which we in Hongkong are asked to subscribe is for the purpose of giving assistance to widows and orphans of those who may be unfortunate enough to lose their lives in South Africa and to the wives and families of those who survive. I take it that that is what we proposed this fund for?

Sir THOMAS JACKSON—That includes those not on the strength?

His EXCELLENCY—Of course that includes wives and families whether on the strength or not. I have been making enquiries with respect to the Patriotic Fund, and as far as I can see it does not seem to embrace wives and families not on the strength, and undoubtedly these are the people we are determined to get at and assist. What takes place I think is this with regard to widows and orphans. In the event of a man being killed in action or of his dying in any

other way his widow receives one year's pay if it is found that the Patriotic Fund has not assisted her with a pension. If the Patriotic Fund assists her the Government gives her nothing. There is no mention at all, of course, in the regulations of the wives and families of those who have married without leave. These cases, I take it, would be reached by the Sailors and Soldiers' Families' Association, because otherwise it is inconceivable that the telegram would have stated “Wives and children left behind and those not on the strength.”

Major LONG called attention to the fact that Colonel Gildea, of the association in question, had stated that the association proposed not only to make the same allowance to women not on the strength which the Government made to women married on the strength but to make them a second allowance to make up for the lack of allowance from the Government.

His EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR—I think I read that letter. The intention of the association, as far as I can see, is to assist those wives and families who are on the strength and, furthermore, to assist the wives and families of those who are not on the strength to such an extent that they would make the assistance given to them equal to the assistance given to those on the strength. I do not know whether this affects the sailors at all, because I understand that the sailors are peculiarly circumstanced in one way, that is, that every sailor can marry.

Admiral FITZGERALD—Wives are not on the strength; they are not recognised.

His EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR—But there is no difference is there? In the event of a sailor being killed his wife would receive some gratuity.

Admiral FITZGERALD—I doubt it. They do not recognise wives in the navy. I think they are much in the same condition as the women not on the strength in the army.

His EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR—Then the Association would meet their cases, and I must say that the Association which would carry out the views of the subscribing public here seems to be the Sailors and Soldiers' Families' Association. It will be for you to consider in sending this money to the Mansion House Fund whether we shall distinctly intimate that we desire it to be placed to the credit of that Association or not. I thought it advisable to give you as much information as I could on the subject and I shall be glad to hear any observations.

H.E. Major-General GASCOIGNE—I think that, so far as I can see, that is the best solution of the matter. The Patriotic Fund of course is very ably administered. There is no doubt about it. At the same time the money subscribed to it has been certainly capitalised, and I take it that subscribers to the “Missus and Kids” Fund particularly desire that the money should go direct and should not be capitalised and merely doled out in dribbets. Personally as one of the subscribers to the original fund, I should be perfectly contented that my subscription should go to the Sailors and Soldiers' Families' Association. Of course I only speak as one person. Mr. Ormsby may have been aware of the Lord Mayor's letter when he made his proposal at the meeting the other day, because his proposal was very much on the same lines as those indicated in the letter. Of course it is for the others to say whether they would like to subscribe to two or three associations. I think myself it would be best for the money collected in Hongkong to go to one association. I am perfectly satisfied that the Sailors and Soldiers' Families' Association will as far as possible meet all the requirements which were originally intended by the “Missus and Kids” Fund.

Admiral FITZGERALD asked if the subscription would go in as the Hongkong subscription.

His EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR—Yes; I should say so.

Admiral FITZGERALD said he was rather inclined to think that so far as the Navy was concerned they would like to hand over their money themselves to the society. Although they ought not to let their left hand know what their right hand gave people liked to see their names down in some way as having subscribed. For instance, the ships in Hongkong and those ships on the station which were not in Hongkong would send in their subscriptions separ-

ately, and the ships might not be mentioned. His object was to get as much money as possible.

His EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR said the money would go from Hongkong and the amount subscribed by the ships here and the garrison would be stated. They would give the details.

The Hon. SECRETARY—Details will be published, and every subscriber will have his name mentioned.

Admiral FITZGERALD—Do you publish the name of every subscriber?

The Hon. SECRETARY—Oh yes; we always do that.

Admiral FITZGERALD said his only object was to get as much money as they could, and he could not help thinking that the fund would benefit if there was a certain amount of rivalry between the ships.

His EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR—They could send in their subscription as a unit and the ship could be mentioned as a unit and the same with the Garrison.

Admiral FITZGERALD (to Commodore Powell)—Does that meet your views?

Commodore POWELL—quite.

The question as to how the list should be headed was then discussed, and it was decided that it should be headed:—“South African War. Sailors and Soldiers' Families Fund.”

The question was asked as to whether the officers' wives and families would participate.

H. E. Major-General GASCOIGNE—I think that as regards the officers there is no doubt the officers' widows want help very often much more than the widows of the rank and file, but I think that in this fund I should almost recommend that we hold ourselves aloof from the officers. I think the Sailors and Soldiers' Families' Association will be sufficient for us to subscribe to here. The officers' widows and families will be looked after to a certain extent. They are more easily got at. Her Majesty the Queen is always very good to them, and they have more opportunities of bringing their case forward than the widows of the rank and file. I think that unless this fund is to reach very large dimensions it will be sufficient to confine ourselves to relieving those who are practically left completely and entirely destitute.

Admiral FITZGERALD concurred.

This was evidently the feeling of the meeting.

The point was raised as to whether the association would relieve only the wives and children and not the widows and orphans.

His EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR said he would get information on the point and in the meantime the subscriptions could be withheld.

Sir THOMAS JACKSON thought there was no need to postpone the question. He thought they ought to come to a decision at once. Help rendered quickly was twice help. He begged to propose that the money collected in Hongkong should be forwarded to the Mansion House with instructions that it should be handed over to the Sailors and Soldiers' Families' Association for distribution. He thought it was almost certain the widows and orphans would be assisted. It would be ridiculous if they helped the women when their husbands were alive and did not do so when their husbands were dead.

H. E. Major-General GASCOIGNE—I know cases where I have received help for widows from the fund.

Sir THOMAS JACKSON said he did not think they could do better than send any contributions they got here to the Sailors and Soldiers' Families' Association. Among the hundreds and thousands of pounds which would be collected in various parts of the empire other funds would have ample.

The proposal to send the money for the Sailors and Soldiers' Families' Association was carried.

Commodore Powell agreed to see to the distribution of lists among the ships; Major Long took the garrison; the Hon. C. P. Chater, the Hon. Wei A Yuk, and Mr. Fung Wa Chuen also placed their services at the disposal of the hon. treasurer at his request. The legal profession were left to Mr. Francis.

The meeting was adjourned *sine die*.

Lieutenant W. T. Layard, 1st Batt Northamptonshire Regiment, has been selected for employment with the Chinese regiment.

THE TUNG WA HOSPITAL EXTENSION.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR LAYS
THE FOUNDATION STONE.

Considerable interest was aroused in the Taipingshan district on Saturday afternoon by the laying of the foundation stone of the extension to the Tung Wa Hospital in Po Yan Street. His Excellency the Governor (Sir Henry Blake, G.C.M.G.) had kindly promised to perform the ceremony; and his arrival was eagerly awaited by the residents of the locality, who crowded to their windows in scores. As soon as His Excellency and party appeared he was accorded a typical Chinese greeting—gongs were beaten, crackers were let off, and above all were heard the quaint strains of a Chinese band. Accompanying the Governor were Lady Blake, Miss Blake, Viscount Suidale (Private Secretary), Lieutenant Blake, A.D.C., and Captain Sanders, A.D.C. They were met by Mr. Ho Tung, who conducted them to a large mat-shed marquee, which had been most elaborately decorated with flags, plants, and bunting. A large gallery had also been erected for the accommodation of the general public. Those present included, in addition to many ladies, Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary; Hon. W. Meigh Goodman, Acting Chief Justice; Sir Thomas Jackson, Colonel the O'Gorman, the Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G., Captain Superintendent of Police; Hon. E. B. Bellios, C.M.G., Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, Hon. R. D. Ormsby, Hon. T. H. Whitehead, Dr. Hartigan, Dr. Gibson, Dr. Bateson Wright, Dr. Atkinson, Mr. F. J. Baddeley, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Mr. Rounseville Wildman, U.S. Consul-General; Sr. Volpicelli, Italian Consul; Mr. A. G. Romano, Portuguese Consul-General; Messrs. W. Whitley, C. W. Duggan, J. Plummer, W. D. Braidwood, G. C. Anderson, J. R. Michael, J. Byer Ball, G. Piarce, jun., R. C. Wilcox, C. A. Tones, J. J. Francis, Q.C., A. Seth, F. Browne, J. Lemm, D. R. Crawford, J. J. Leiria, &c.

Mr. Ho Tung, who acted as chairman, presented Lady Blake with a bouquet of flowers, one being also handed to Miss Blake by Miss Ho Kom Tong, the Chairman's niece.

MR. HO TUNG ON THE HISTORY OF THE HOSPITAL.

Mr. HO TUNG said—Your Excellency, ladies and gentlemen, You have kindly condescended to be present here to-day to assist at a function which it is hoped, will mark a distinct epoch in the history of the Tung Wa Hospital. The laying of the foundation stone of the proposed new building to meet the fast growing needs of the hospital on the other side of the road marks an event of no insignificant importance to those for whom the Tung Wa Hospital was primarily founded. With the completion of the building on this site will be seen the adoption of the plan so felicitously suggested by Your Excellency for the better accommodation of women patients, since it is proposed to embrace within its walls wards for the treatment of midwifery cases and an operating room for the more general handling of surgical cases. Let me should relegate to a later moment the expression of great indebtedness in which the Directors of the Hospital have been placed by the very liberal response accorded to their appeal for the funds of this institution, permit me now, first of all, to publicly thank Your Excellency for that "heartily desire to assist" which was no sooner promised than fulfilled. For it is due to Your Excellency that the Chinese community have obtained this valuable site from the Government free of cost. Nor are they less grateful to you for opening the subscription first with your generous donation. An example so conspicuously set was sure to be fruitful of good results. In this the Directors have cause for much gratification. The community, regardless of race or creed, came forward with their contributions, with a liberality truly remarkable, and within three months no less an amount than \$80,000 has been subscribed. To all those who have so generously subscribed we say in the words of the Shi-King "on you henceforth shall ceaseless blessings abide." Having regard

to the fact that one of the conditions of this free grant of land, which Your Excellency has been instrumental in obtaining, is that the building should be completed within 18 months from the date of the grant, the Directors feel that without so much substantial aid from one and all it would have been practically impossible for them to have been successful in carrying out the proposed enlargement of the hospital now so sorely needed. It would be ungracious of me were I to omit the individual names of certain gentlemen who were particularly energetic in their assistance with the subscription list. I, therefore, desire to mention the names of Messrs. Lo Chi-tin, Li Yen-chuen, Chan Pik-tsun, Li San-hin, Ho Fook, and Ho Kom-tong in this connection. The Directors remember that when they had the honour of being presented to Your Excellency early this year, you stated that you recognized the difficulty of securing that change which means progress and improvement among a people so tenacious of their customs as the Chinese. I think that were we to look back into the history of this institution there can be little reason to doubt that "Example is better than precept," for, however deep-seated native sentiments may be in favour of unscientific medical treatment, the results of skill and superior methods as practised by western nations, though slowly, have surely found their way into the Tung Wa, and this furnishes an excuse for giving a short sketch of its history. In 1851 a temple was erected for the reception of ancestral tablets. It soon, however, developed into a kind of native hospital to which Chinese were taken in a moribund condition, and the subsequent history of the Tsz, as the place was then called, is one of neglect and misery, which happily gave way in 1861 to the revival of a plan which had been mooted before for the establishment of a Chinese hospital. Then, as now, the matter was very warmly taken up by the leading Chinese residents, and without difficulty a sum of \$30,000 was subscribed by the Chinese. Preliminary difficulties having been overcome Earl Granville (1869) approved the expenditure towards levelling and preparing a suitable site for the hospital. And so it was the site of Taipingshan "this hill of universal peace" was made "a gift of the Queen to the Chinese Community." On the 14th February, 1872, the Hospital was opened with great pomp and ceremony, Governor Sir Richard Graves McDonnell, who honoured the proceedings by his presence, characterising it as an event of extreme interest not only to the Chinese community but to the community generally. In the concluding portion of the despatch to the Secretary of State sending an account of the ceremony, the Governor prophetically said that he "looked forward with cheerfulness and hope to the future of the Hospital." It would have been a matter of extreme satisfaction could this Father of this Benevolent Institution have lived to witness to-day the vast development of the good work in the inauguration of which he took so leading a part. From its establishment the Tung Wa Hospital appears to have pursued the even tenor of its way until the year of the first outbreak of bubonic plague in Hongkong. It was in 1894 that the Tung Wa was brought so much into prominence and with it the alleged misadministration of the institution. So vigorous was the campaign that was waged against this hospital that for a time it occupied much of the attention of the Executive as well as of the Legislative Council. Ultimately, a Commission of Inquiry was appointed in 1896, and the result of its exhaustive labours is to be found within the covers of a blue-book comprising some 200 pages of closely-printed foolscap. While recommending a series of improvements in the internal affairs of the Hospital, the majority of the Commissioners conclude by saying that it "has done excellent work in the past, and that, if the improvements they have recommended are adopted, it will be able in the future to continue its good with still greater efficiency and with increased benefits to the indigent suffering Chinese, for whose welfare the Hospital was established."

THOSE TO WHOM CREDIT IS DUE.

The Chinese characteristic tenacity alluded to by Your Excellency has in a large measure been overcome to the extent of the adoption of those reforms categorically stated in the reports of our genial Visiting Surgeon (Dr.

Thomson) for the years 1897 and 1898, to whom and whose able and enlightened second, Dr. Chung, the resident surgeon, is due the credit of so gratifying and conspicuous success. A word of praise, too, should be given the Chinese medical practitioners for the harmony with which they have carried on their own good work. Associate with the progress and success of the hospital must be mentioned also the name of our Registrar-General, the Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, C.M.G., whose intimate acquaintance and sympathy with the Chinese and the special knowledge he possesses of their needs have been most helpful in securing those reforms which we can boast of to-day. (Applause.)

A DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW BUILDING.

I have touched on the question of the accommodation of our new building. It is only fitting that a description of its plan should be available to those subscribers who have been unable to present here to-day to examine the plan which is exhibited here this afternoon. The entrance will be from Po Yan Street leading into a Central Hall, a Chinese architectural characteristic, 25' by 23'. There will be the indispensable verandah on all four sides of the building, and so it is that the effect of the Central Hall will appear to advantage. The Superintendent's office and receiving room will face each other on the left and right of the entrance respectively. In addition to a large ward to accommodate 18 beds on the ground floor there will be the attendants' room, lavatory, and clothes store, besides kitchen, all arranged in a more satisfactory manner than now exists in the old hospital. The first floor is laid out to take in a general ward identical with that on the floor below. And, as I have already mentioned, there will be the special feature of an operating room with top-lights. There will also be four small wards which may be used for midwifery cases or for the greater comfort of that class of patients who would prefer to pay for better accommodation. Lavatory, attendants' room, and all the other necessary conveniences will go to make up the plan of this floor, which has verandahs overlooking Po Yan Station, and Market Streets. When the buildings has thus been described, I think it will be generally admitted that the Directors, with the cordial co-operation of Drs. Atkinson, Lowson, and Thomson, from whom they received valuable suggestions, have given much careful thought to providing a well-planned building with light and ventilation for the suffering humanity that will be housed in it. Summarizing, therefore, the history of the Tung Wa, we find in it the first establishment of a permanent institution by the Chinese for the treatment of the sick. I have good reason to believe that it is not only the first hospital of its kind in Hongkong, but also throughout China. It owes its existence to, and is dependent for its enlargement upon, the benevolent spirit of Chinese merchants and compadres—the originators of the scheme—generously aided by all other sections of the community and the helpful influence of a Government ready to do the greatest good to the greatest number. The Tung Wa Hospital shows that the Chinese mind is not unsusceptible of good influence, and let us hope that it will long continue in its career of usefulness and so merit the good will which it has earned from a well-disposed community. Let us trust also that its example will bear good fruit in the more remote parts of China, principally in the adoption of a scientific treatment of such cases as medical skill can cure. And in saying this I look hopefully to the success of our maternity ward for reducing the presently large infantile mortality among the Chinese in Hongkong. It remains for me now to ask Your Excellency to lay the foundation stone of this building, which, when ready, will add to the numerous benevolent institutions of this progressive and unique Colony over the destinies of which Your Excellency now presides, and, as spokesman of the Directorate, to cordially thank Your Excellency for the honour you have been pleased to confer upon us by taking part in this afternoon's ceremony, and to express our sincere appreciation of the consideration which Your Excellency has invariably shown to the Chinese population of this Colony. (Applause.)

HIS EXCELLENCY LAYS THE STONE.

HIS EXCELLENCY then formally laid the stone, finishing the spreading of the mortar in the work.

man-like manner and afterwards tapping the stone with the mallet and declaring it well and truly laid. On the trowel, which was of silver, was the following inscription:—"Presented to Sir Henry Arthur Blake, G.O.M.G., by the directors of the Tung Wa Hospital, Hongkong, in commemoration of the laying of the foundation stone of the extension of the Hospital 25th November, 1899." The inscription was also in Chinese.

HIS EXCELLENCY'S ADDRESS.

His Excellency said—Mr. Ho Tung, I have listened with attention and very great satisfaction to your most interesting address, and I assure you that the laying of this foundation stone is for me a most pleasant duty, for this valuable addition to the excellent charity is not alone an evidence of the generous benevolence of the Chinese, but affords a proof that charity and brotherly love is not in Hongkong bounded by race or creed, for as you have shown in your address all classes and creeds have come forward and assisted in this good work. (Applause.) I congratulate the gentlemen who especially interested themselves in the collection upon the splendid success of their labours in obtaining so large a sum as \$80,000 within three months. The increased accommodation for female patients was urgently required and with the removal of the Kaifong wards the Tung Wa hospital will take its place as an institution suitable in every respect for the purpose for which it was intended. (Applause.) In my opinion this land granted by the Crown will be amply paid for by the benefits conferred by this building upon our Chinese fellow subjects.

WESTERN AND CHINESE SYSTEMS OF MEDICINE.

I have watched from time to time the return of the hospital cases hoping to find that the death rate of patients treated under the Chinese system would approach more nearly the rate of mortality of those treated under the Western system of medicine. It must be remembered that there are no special wards. These patients are side by side, under identical conditions, in the same ward. Yet we find that the death rate of those who elect to be treated by the European system of medicine is not one-half that of the patients who desire to be treated by Chinese methods. I am glad to hear from you that the more successful Western methods are gradually gaining ground. That an operating room should find a place in a Chinese hospital is the most conclusive evidence that ancient prejudices are beginning to yield before the light of modern science—(applause)—and it is gratifying to me, as it is interesting, to hear that the first Chinese hospital of this kind has been established by the Chinese themselves in a British Colony. To the tens of thousands of Chinese workmen who come to Hongkong it must show that under British rule is to be found the stimulus and the encouragement for those charitable institutions that are among the most beneficent evidences of advanced civilization. I would that this proof of Chinese humanitarianism and loving help to those in trouble and sickness when their natural feelings are allowed free play could influence those in high places in China to put away the inhuman tortures that are daily practised in their courts, that degrade the population and disgrace humanity. I find by the returns that in three months the Tung Wa Hospital has received 544 in-patients and that 49,911 out-patients have been treated at the dispensary. 200 destitute have been received and nursed and vaccination is supplied gratis. These figures and facts speak for themselves as to the benefits conferred by the Hospital and it must be a satisfaction to all supporters of this institution for the charities that heal, and soothe, and bless lie scattered at the feet of men like flowers. (Applause.)

THE WORK OF SANITARY REFORM.

I look to you, gentlemen, to assist the Government in the work of sanitary reform upon which it has entered by explaining to the Chinese community that however irritating interference may be it is all in their interests and for the purpose of conquering this plague of which the Chinese working people have been the special victims. Again I congratulate you upon the good work that you have accomplished and I pray that He in whose hands rests the fate of all people may make this new building a blessing

in the future to the poorer members of the Chinese community of Hongkong. (Applause).

PRESENTATION OF A SCROLL TO LADY BLAKE.

Mr. Ho Tung said—Your Excellency, ladies and gentlemen, before this distinguished company disperse, I have to perform another very pleasing duty in connection with this afternoon's proceedings. On behalf of the Directors of the Hospital I have to ask Lady Blake's kind acceptance of a commemorative scroll bearing the Chinese inscription of which I will now proceed to read the translation:—

"Presented for the gracious acceptance of Lady Blake. Your Ladyship, virtue's own model, is to Hongkong as the sunlight for lustre and beneficence. Your benevolent spirit and fair deeds of charity are as the breath of the spring to a wide domain. A worthy helpmeet, ever using great talents to further the good work of your husband! As the leaves of the citron and the water from the fresh spring brought healing to the myriad families, so will the extended relief afforded by this hospital be enjoyed for ages to come. Not alone are the Directors of this hospital grateful for this boon, but the benefit conferred will be held in lasting remembrance by all who will derive therefrom health and long life. Blessings extended to the fragrant sea! (i.e. Hongkong).

"THE DIRECTORS OF THE TUNG WAH HOSPITAL."

25th November, 1899."

Lady BLAKE having expressed her thanks cheers were given for His Excellency and her Ladyship, the Chinese band playing and crackers being let off as the party left the marquee. The Company then retired to the Reception Hall of the Tung Wah Hospital, where refreshments were served.

After the glasses had been charged H.E. the GOVERNOR proposed the health of the Directors coupled with the name of Mr. Ho Tung, at the same time expressing his great satisfaction with the way in which the Directors have been conducting the affairs of the hospital.

Mr. Ho TUNG, on behalf of the Directors, responded, thanking His Excellency and observing that the Directors were pleased to learn they had given satisfaction to the Government in their work and that they would continue to do their best to further the interests of the hospital.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

On 24th November, the usual fortnightly meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board was held. The chair was occupied by the President (Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer), and there were also present the Hon. R. D. Ormsby (Director of Public Works), Mr. E. Osborne, Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), and Mr. C. W. Duggan (Secretary).

LIMK WASHING.

An application for exemption from limewashing No. 2 Elgin Street was refused, a similar application with regard to 53, Graham Street, being held over.

LARCENIES OF GRAVE FITTINGS FROM CEMETERIES.

Mr. H. White, overseer of cemeteries, reported on the 16th November:—"I beg to report that on visiting the cemeteries this morning I discovered that thieves had entered the Colonial Cemeteries and stolen 16 pieces of chain from four graves—No. 5905 one piece, No. 6107 six pieces, No. 6118 six pieces, and No. 6124 three pieces." The Vice President minuted, in reply to an enquiry from Dr. Clark, who wrote "A large number of thefts have recently occurred from the Roman Catholic cemetery. Can you not stop this?" "Police have no access to the cemeteries at night, the gates being locked. Police do not patrol the Bowen Road at night, and the thieves probably gain access at the back of the cemeteries. The only way to absolutely prevent such larcenies would be to place police or watchmen on duty inside the cemeteries. I have not sufficient men for this extra work. Police have been watching the Roman Catholic cemetery for the past two nights. This is a special watch which will be continued for the present."

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The mortality returns for Macao for the

week ended October 29th showed 57 deaths and for the following week 45 deaths.

The mortality statistics for the colony of Hongkong showed a death rate of 24.1 for the week ended November 11th, against 23.6 for the previous week, and 19.2 for the corresponding week last year.

A WELL TO BE CLOSED.

Mr. F. Browne, Government Analyst, certified that the water obtained from a well at No. 4, Queen's Road Central, was so tainted with impurities as to be unfit for potable purposes and likely to prove injurious to health.

MODEL CHINESE TENEMENT HOUSES.

At a meeting of the Board held on Oct. 26th the following resolution was passed, on the motion of the Hon. R. D. Ormsby, seconded by the Hon. F. H. May:—"That the Government be asked to offer a premium for the best design for a block of Chinese tenement houses, in accordance with modern views of sanitation, to be erected on one of the vacant lots in the resumed area of Taipingshan, and, further, to proceed to put up the building in accordance with the selected plan."

A reply has since been received to the effect that the Government is not prepared to erect any such houses. No reference was made in the reply to the suggestion that a premium should be offered for the best design.

On the motion of Mr. OSBORNE, seconded by the Hon. R. D. ORMSBY, it was resolved to ask the Government for a reply on this point also. This was all the business.

ANTI-FOREIGN RIOTING IN SHANTUNG.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS."] SHANGHAI, 28th November.

Telegrams received from Chinanfu (the provincial city of Shantung) report serious Anti-Foreign rioting.

Many Protestant families (Native) have been pillaged and ordered to recant their faith, on pain of death.

The officials are inert or powerless, and, no arrests have been made.

RECONSTITUTION OF THE SANITARY BOARD.

The restoration to the Sanitary Board of its legal constitution, which has been suspended since 1895, has at last been decided upon. It is notified in the Gazette that an election by the ratepayers of two members of the Board is to take place at the City Hall on Tuesday, 19th December.

Who will be the candidates?

SHOCKING SUICIDE OF AN ARTILLERY SERGEANT.

On Saturday there was conveyed to the public mortuary the body of William Heally, a Sergeant in the R. A., Victoria Barracks, who committed suicide by shooting himself with a carbine through the head. He appears to have put the muzzle of the carbine under his chin and pulled the trigger. The bullet penetrated the brain and caused instantaneous death. The bullet went through the ceiling into the room above, passed through a bed and pillow from which Sergeant Todd had just arisen, and buried itself in the ceiling of the second room. Deceased leaves a wife and children. Deceased had sustained an injury to his leg and after being some time in hospital had been discharged un-cured. It is thought by his comrades that his brooding over this led him to take away his life.

ANOTHER PRESENTATION TO CORPORAL ALMOND.

AN ITALIAN NAVAL MEDAL.

In June last we reported that on the 10th of that month Corporal Almond, of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, was presented with the Royal Humane Society's medal for a gallant attempt to save life when the Regiment was at Crete last year. In June, 1898, Corporal Almond was a patient in the hospital at Crete when he noticed some Italian soldiers bathing some little distance away. His attention was attracted

to one of them, who seemed to be in great distress, and he at once ran out of the hospital and endeavoured to save him. The man disappeared, but Corporal Almond dived several times in the hope of bringing him ashore, persevering in his attempt in spite of a nasty cut which he received by striking a rock with his head. Unfortunately he was not successful in his efforts, the body not being recovered for several days.

The matter having been brought before the Italian authorities at home they decided to show their appreciation of Corporal Almond's pluck by presenting to him a silver medal awarded in cases of naval valour. Accordingly after parade at Happy Valley on Friday, 24th Nov., an interesting little function took place. H.E. Major-General Gossoine (Commanding Her Majesty's Forces in China and Hongkong), rode up at about half-past eight, accompanied by his Aide-de-Camp (the Hon. H. W. Trefusis) and Major Long. Signor Volpicelli (the Italian Consul in Hongkong) arrived at about the same time, being accompanied by the following officers of H.I.M.S. *Stromboli*, which is at present in the harbour—Signors A. Baistrocchi, R. Piro, R. C. Gangitano, and G. Frigerio C. Rochira.

Consul Volpicelli, approaching H.E. the Major-General said—I feel deeply the honour conferred upon me in being made the bearer of this token of recognition of the bravery displayed by Corporal Almond. That brave act was performed last year when the soldiers of Christian Europe had assembled in Crete to secure independence and orderly government to a branch of that Greek people to whom all the nations of Europe owe so much of their science and civilisation. I will recall certain circumstances which require special notice, though bravery is always to be expected from a British soldier. Corporal Almond was sick and in hospital when he rushed out and risked his life to save that of a brother soldier. The act is an instance of that high quality of your race which inspires so much self-sacrifice and makes you ever ready to encounter danger for saving life—that noble quality recorded in so many brilliant pages of the history of your Life-boat Service. It is a quality which inspires even the women of your race, and has given to the history of the world the thrilling episode of the heroic self-sacrifice of the stewardess of the *Stella*. Allow me therefore to express our admiration of the sterling qualities of the British Army in war and peace.

On Corporal Almond being called from the ranks.

H. E. the MAJOR-GENERAL said—Corporal Almond, it is with the greatest pleasure that I come here to present this medal to you and I know that you and the regiment to which you have the honour to belong will appreciate the fact that this parade has been attended by the Italian Consul and the officers of the Italian fleet quartered here for the moment. The Consul has just been most kindly telling me, Corporal Almond, that your action was not only a plucky one in itself, but that it was rendered doubly so by the fact that at the time it was performed you were a patient in hospital and that seeing an Italian sailor in difficulties you jumped into the water and you dived for him several times, although you were unsuccessful in saving his life. The Italian nation, which has always been the first and foremost to recognise acts of bravery, has paid you the high honour of presenting a medal to you for your plucky conduct, and I am gratified at hearing that Her Majesty the Queen has made a special allowance in your favour to allow you to wear this medal. I trust you may have many years to wear it and to be proud of it. I am going to ask as a favour which I know you will appreciate that it be pinned on to your breast by the Italian Consul.

At His Excellency the Major-General's request Consul Volpicelli then stepped forward and pinned the medal on Corporal Almond's breast, and His Excellency having ridden forward and shaken hands with Corporal Almond the proceedings terminated.

The silver medal has inscribed on one side:—"Al Valor di Marina" (To Naval Valour). On the reverse:—"To Corporal Almonds R. Welsh Fusiliers—Halepa, 20th July, 1898."

The troops having marched past, Consul Volpicelli and the Italian naval officers were invited to breakfast at the officers' mess at Murray Barracks by Major Morris.

STARTLING RUMOURS.

A report went the round of the papers some time ago to the effect that the Japanese were making large purchases of smokeless coal at Singapore and the ports eastward of the Straits.

Now comes another report, of local origin, to the effect that the agents of the Russian Government have bought up all the flour in Hongkong. It is not necessary to believe every report one hears, but it would be satisfactory to have some assurance that if Hongkong had to stand a siege it would not have to enter on the defence hampered by depleted supplies. It has been suggested in connection with the report alluded to that as relations are strained between Russia and Japan and the former has mobilised a large army in Manchuria and the Amur districts, she fears that in the event of Japan defeating the Russian fleet and obtaining command of the sea the Russian forces might find themselves pinched for this necessary food staple and that there would be difficulty in obtaining it via the unfinished Siberian Railway. On the other hand it is suggested that the object might be to deplete Hongkong of its stock of flour.

In connection with these alarmist reports we note the *N. O. Daily News* Native correspondent at Peking—very few of whose statements, by the way, are ever borne out by facts—sends the following:—The Tsungli Yamen received the other day a dispatch by courier from the Tartar General of Kirin (Central Manchuria) to the following effect:—Officers commanding mounted patrols in the vicinity of the East coast report that a grand review of over 30,000 Russian troops took place in October at Possiet Bay, before the Governor-General of the Amur territory, winding up with a sham battle in which 20,000 men attacked a strong fortified position held by the remaining portion of the army corps. These troops had been quietly and rapidly mobilised, coming from various parts of the territory including those at Vladivostok, an operation lasting only four days. The manoeuvres began in the first week of October and lasted about three weeks, and although apparently completed the troops are still staying in their encampments as if waiting for orders. As these warlike operations took place so near the Chinese borders a dispatch was sent from Kirin to the Russian General in command at Possiet Bay asking the meaning of the mobilisation. The answer received was as follows: "Preparing for invasion of Japan."

This last statement our contemporary gives with all reserve.

Later.

We hear that there is no foundation for the rumour that the Russians have been buying up the stock of flour in Hongkong. The Russian possessions in the North are considerable consumers of flour, which they obtain mostly by direct consignment from San Francisco and other cities on the American Pacific seaboard, but when the shipments do not come forward regularly, as sometimes happens, purchases are made on the Hongkong market. These amount on an average to perhaps twenty or thirty thousand sacks a year. At present, however, there is no unusual activity in the market, and the business going on is following the usual course. The stock of flour in the colony at the present time is about 200,000 sacks, which would be sufficient to feed the whole population for a couple of months.

A JUNK PIRATED NEAR FA TAU MUN PASS.

THE POLICE MAKE THREE CAPTURES.

At about nine o'clock on Sunday morning a small trading junk was held up near the Fa Tau Mun Pass by four men who rowed out towards it in a boat. There were five men in the junk, but as they were unarmed whilst their assailants carried fire-arms they were not able to offer much opposition. One of their number was shot in the thigh. The pirates stripped the junk of everything on board which was worth anything and then rowed away. The junk returned to Shaukiwan, where the matter was reported to the police. The wounded man was conveyed to the Hospital, and without loss of time a police launch went in pursuit of the depredators, one

of the occupants of the junk accompanying. On reaching Picnic Bay, Lamma Island, a boat was sighted which was recognised as belonging to the pirates. There were four men in her, and one of them managed to get away. The other three were, however, captured, among them being the man who shot one of the junk occupants. All the stolen property was found in the boat.

The pirates were brought to Hongkong and brought up at the Magistracy on Monday morning and remanded.

ANOTHER CAPTURE BY THE POLICE.

The police have succeeded in effecting another capture in connection with the piracy near Fau Tau Wan Pass on Sunday, so that the whole of the four men who attacked the junk are now in custody. On Monday Sergeants Gourlay and Kerr, with a party of Chinese constables and two of the occupants of the junk, were scouring Lamma Island and searching the different houses when they came to a house in which one of the rooms was looked up. Soon after they made their appearance the door was burst open from the inside and a man rushed out and attempted to escape. He was, however, captured and identified as the man for whom the police were looking. He was scratched a good deal about the legs on account of his plunging through the bushes in getting away from the police on Sunday.

SPECIAL LICENSING SESSIONS.

A special sessions of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace was held at the Magistracy on Monday for the purpose of considering the following applications:—

1—From one Rustumjee Cowasjee Bamjee for a publican's licence to sell and retail intoxicating liquors on the premises situate at houses Nos. 148 and 150, Queen's Road Central, under the sign of "The Stag Hotel."

2—From one Antonio Fonseca for an adjunct licence for the retail sale of intoxicating liquors as an adjunct to his business as hotel-keeper on the premises situate at house No. 13, Queen's Road Central, under the sign of "Connaught House."

Mr. Gompertz, Acting Police Magistrate, presided and there were also present Commander W. C. H. Hastings, Deputy Superintendent F. J. Badeley, Messrs. A. Shelton Hooper, J. Dyer Ball, D. R. Crawford, A. Findlay Smith, W. M. B. Arthur, and Chan Kwan-i.

Mr. Arthur said that these were two applications which were refused at the last general licensing meeting on certain considerations, and accordingly fresh applications had been made.

With regard to the application of Mr. Fonseca Deputy-Superintendent Badeley said there was no police objection.

Mr. Hooper—Was the previous license a full license or an adjunct license.

Mr. Arthur—A publican's license.

Deputy-Superintendent Badeley—But Mr. Bohm did not take advantage of it—he did not keep a public bar.

Mr. Arthur—Not downstairs. At all events he had the privilege. People who lived there could take anybody in and call for a drink.

Mr. Hooper—Could he have had a bar with the license he held?

Mr. Arthur—Yes.

Mr. Hooper—I heard that that was not so.

Mr. Arthur reassured Mr. Hooper on this point by producing the record, which showed that at the annual licensing sessions last year a publican's license was granted to Mr. Bohm for the Windsor Hotel.

On the motion of Deputy Superintendent Badeley, seconded by Mr. A. Findlay Smith, the application was granted without any private consultation.

Mr. Crawford asked if the fact of licensed premises being owned by Chinese had weight with the Justices. He asked the question because he noticed that in a great many cases licensed premises were owned by Chinese syndicates, Europeans being put in as managers. It was so in this case. He did not object in this case, but he wished to know whether that was a point which ought to be considered by them in other cases.

Mr. Hooper—I do not think we need take that into account if the applicant is of good

character and if the Justices think a house is wanted in that particular neighbourhood.

Deputy-Superintendent Badeley—The Justices are not compelled to disclose the workings of their minds.

With regard to the application of Mr. Bamjee in respect of the Stag Hotel, the Chairman said the Justices considered the application in private at the last annual licensing sessions and decided not to grant it. He understood that since then certain alterations had been made.

Mr. Arthur said that accompanying the application was a letter from Messrs. Dennys and Bowley stating that two barmaids formerly employed in the hotel had been discharged and that it was not intended to engage barmaids in the future.

Mr. H. Hursthouse appeared in support of the application. He said it was understood that the objection of the Justices to grant the license at the annual licensing sessions was at all events partly on account of two barmaids who were employed at the hotel. The effect of that refusal would be that the place would have to be closed on Wednesday unless in the meantime a fresh license was granted. There was no objection to Mr. Bamjee's personal character, and the two barmaids had since been dismissed.

The Chairman.—Are the police satisfied?

Deputy-Superintendent Badeley—Yes; we are satisfied.

The Justices considered the application in private, and decided to grant it.

THE HON. T. H. WHITEHEAD'S PROTEST.

The following correspondence with a copy of Hon. T. H. Whitehead's protest regarding the estimates for Public Works has been forwarded to us for publication:—

HON. T. H. WHITEHEAD TO THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Hongkong, 24th November, 1899.

Dear Sir,—I hand you herewith copy in triplicate of my Protest, and reasons for that Protest, against the decision of the majority of the Council at yesterday's meeting in favour of the proposals of the Government in respect of Expenditure on Public Works Extraordinary during 1900. I intend to lay the Protest on the table under provisions of Rule 31 of the Standing Orders of the Council at the next ordinary meeting, but I send these copies now in the hope that His Excellency the Governor will forward the same to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies by the mail to-morrow along with the Memorandum signed by the other Unofficial Members.

As the latter Memorandum has already appeared in print I am sending a copy of my Protest to the local Press this evening.—Yours very truly,

T. H. WHITEHEAD.

The Honourable J. H. Stewart Lockhart, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY TO
HON. T. H. WHITEHEAD.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
24th November, 1899.

Sir,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of to-day's date with its enclosures, and to state that the Governor regrets his inability to forward it by to-morrow's mail as His Excellency requires time to consider it with a view to making his observations upon it before transmitting it to the Secretary of State.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

The Honourable T. H. Whitehead.

THE HON. T. H. WHITEHEAD'S PROTEST.

PROTEST by the undersigned Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council of Hongkong with reference to the Estimates for Public Works Extraordinary during the year 1900, and against the refusal of the Government to reconsider and remodel them.

1.—A careful consideration of the Estimates for the coming year and of the statement to the Council with which His Excellency the Governor introduced the Estimates, suggest one or

two points in connection with the financial position of the Colony generally and especially in connection with the Public Works Extraordinary proposed to be executed or commenced in 1900, which appear to require attention and reconsideration.

2.—In the first place the Colony is to be congratulated upon the fact that, in spite of the very large and totally unforeseen expenditure incurred in taking over the New Territory, the corrected Estimates for the current year show a probable credit balance on the 31st December next of \$400,000, including therein a balance from 1898 of \$90,000. The revenue in nearly all its items has shown a surprising elasticity and the amount realised by the sale of land has been exceptionally large. In fact, the greater portion of the estimated surplus is derived from that source. There can be no more convincing proof of the growth and prosperity of the Colony (although other proofs are not wanting) than this increase in the quantity of land sold and the amount of premia realised on such sales.

3.—His Excellency the Governor in his opening statement put the credit balance from last year at \$90,000 or thereabouts, and the balance at the end of the current year as shown by the corrected estimates at about \$315,000, so making up the estimated total of \$400,000. His figures for 1898 are taken apparently from the Treasurer's Financial Returns laid on the table with the draft Estimates (Paper No 40 of 1899). This paper in its amended form includes two statements of the assets and liabilities of the Colony at the end of 1898 differing very considerably from one another and both of which cannot be correct. His Excellency seems to have adopted that dated the 13th March, 1899, and it undoubtedly seems to be the more correct as it contains a statement of the arrears of taxes and and Crown rent still outstanding and to be collected on 31st December, 1898; but the paper even as amended appears to be faulty and needs explanation before it can be accepted or even understood. Among the liabilities the Treasurer includes \$407,080.76 under the head of "Deposits not available." This amount probably represents monies deposited with the Government in connection with the Praya Reclamation, by suitors in the Supreme Court, and otherwise. The principal items should be stated. It would appear as if these monies have been applied in aid of the general revenue although described as "not available" and as monies to be kept separate.

The statement dated 13th March shows the balance of assets over liabilities on 31st December, 1898, to be \$213,358.39, whereas the one dated 29th September gives the balance of assets as \$251,056.94, or an increase of \$37,698.55. How does this arise?

From the former sum of \$213,358.39 there is deducted in the statement \$123,334.14, "Balance of 1893 Loan," which without explanation is unintelligible. The Loan Accounts are supposed to be kept separate from the general revenue of the Colony. The return does contain a Sinking Fund Account, but no general account showing the present position of the Loan Fund. Has it all been expended? If so has it all been expended on loan works, i.e., on the works for which it was specifically borrowed, or has any portion of it been taken and applied in aid of the general revenue of the Colony? If so, then the money borrowed from the Loan Monies for general purposes should appear somewhere as an item of revenue, and the amount due from General Revenue to the Loan Fund should have appeared as a liability. The returns by the Treasurer of the assets and liabilities of the Colony at the end of 1898 are not comprehensible as they stand, and are in need of very considerable explanations and additions.

The final settlement of the Estimates for 1900 should be postponed until these accounts are cleared up and re-stated.

4.—According to His Excellency the Governor's statement and the Treasurer's Return before referred to, there will be a surplus on 31st December next, over and above the current expenses, in round numbers, of \$400,000, and the Estimates for next year provide for an Expenditure on Public Works Extraordinary during 1900 of \$331,100 only. The actual amount available for Public Works Extraordinary in 1900 is the said \$400,000, plus the estimated surplus Revenue over the ordinary Expendi-

ture during next year, say, \$436,720, or an aggregate of \$836,720.

How is it that, with the large number of important public works now pressing for attention, many of them most urgently required, so small an amount out of the admittedly available surplus revenue is to be applied in 1900 in the execution of such works?

5.—There is only one apparent justification for this very small estimate for Public Works Extraordinary in 1900, and that is the inability (if it exists) of the Public Works Department to proceed with works during the year to a greater extent than the amount estimated for, \$331,100; but that is, in fact, no justification or excuse as the remedy is a simple and easy one, to adequately increase the strength of the Department either temporarily or permanently, or to get the necessary work done under the supervision of competent local architects.

Instead of increasing the strength of the Public Works Department to meet urgent public necessities the Estimates for the coming year show a reduction in its strength, especially in Engineers, from what it was a few years ago.

This is a matter which urgently needs reconsideration before the final approval of the Estimates and the passing of the Appropriation Ordinance for 1900.

6.—There is apparently abundant available funds for the more urgently needed public works. The sound basis on which to proceed in the expenditure of that money is to arrange the list of works to be done in the order of their importance and urgency, to take the most urgent in hand without delay, and to devote a portion of the funds in hand to providing, as an extraordinary expenditure, the necessary staff for the purpose of superintending the work. There is no reason why an estimate for Extraordinary Public Works should not include the provision of an extraordinary supply of officers to superintend their execution.

7.—What are the Extraordinary Public Works now in contemplation, and which of these are in their order the most urgent and the most important?

8.—His Excellency the Governor pointed out in his address to the Council the "overwhelming importance of eradicating" the scourge of plague and that if any information could be obtained throwing light upon the causes of it, "no expenditure within the reach of the Colony would be too great to secure the 'breathing of freedom from such a scourge.'" On this point there can be no difference of opinion. It appears strange that, among the Public Works extraordinary estimated for, no provision is made for any work of any importance directly bearing on the sanitation of the Colony or aiming at the improvement of the dwellings of the poorer classes of the Chinese population, it being common knowledge that the defective construction of numerous Chinese dwellings, want of light and air, the overcrowding, and the absence of all sanitary appliances for the use of the vast Chinese population, are among the contributory if not the main causes of the plague.

9.—More public latrines are most urgently required. There is nothing from a sanitary point of view more urgently necessary. For want of them, as Mr. Drury, Sanitary Surveyor, points out in his admirable report, dated 5th August last, the whole fruits of our expenditure on the drainage of the Colony during the last ten years is so much money thrown away. The storm-drains are still sewers as foul as the sewers themselves. The subsoil is still being steadily saturated with filth. Innumerable houses are still the water-closets and urinals of a large number of the native population. The necessity for public urinals and for many more of them, and for the taking over of the existing private latrines in the Colony, had been the subject of the most pressing representations to the Government since the first arrival of helate Colonial Surgeon in the early seventies. Every sanitary authority has reported in favour of it. See Evidence and Appendix annexed to the Report of the Insanitary Properties Commission dated 9th March 1893; but there is no provision at all in the Estimates for the purchase of private latrines and provision for the erection of only one public latrine during 1900.

This is a work which ought to be taken in hand instantly and carried out promptly in its entirety. Another urgent public work from a sanitary point of view is the overhauling and cleansing of the storm-water drains—old and new—which are still practically sewers and a grave danger to the Colony. Mr. Drury clearly attributes the steady increase of typhoid in the Colony to these drain-sewers.

10.—There are hundreds of houses in the Colony condemned by every sanitary authority who has ever inspected them as uninhabitable either in whole or in part. There is nothing in the Estimates to indicate that this evil is to be attacked in any way. It cannot be done without expense. Either these houses should be bought up and reconstructed by the Government, or the owners should be forced to reconstruct and improve, with compensation, or Government should build model premises for the poorer classes of Chinese at Taipingshan or elsewhere; but there is evidently no settled plan for dealing with these houses and no money provided by the Estimates for even a single experiment in this line.

Why is not something done or attempt to be done, after all the years of enquiry and report?

The Estimates for 1900 provide for an expenditure (Items 24 and 25 details extraordinary public works) of about \$15,000 for sewerage of Victoria and miscellaneous drainage works, but these are of the ordinary character and do not attack the sanitary problem in any way.

In the Estimates there is a list of 32 items of Public Works Extraordinary to be commenced or gone on with next year and the one or two really urgent and necessary public works (non-sanitary) that in the opinion of every man is the Colony ought to figure in that list are not there. The shelter for chair coolies at the Peak, a mere flea-bite so far expense is concerned, is omitted, although it might well, it is so small, be brought into the ordinary current expenditure. It is a work which every consideration of humanity should impel to the speedy construction. It is a question of the health of the working men, who for our convenience are exposed to all the inclemencies of the weather. It should be put in hand and completed before money is expended on a Peak Residence for the Governor. His Excellency is provided for but the coolies without a shelter will suffer. Only \$1,000 to \$1,000 is required for the shelter, yet it cannot be done. Why not?

No plans or details of the building have yet been laid before the Public Works Committee in connection with the Governor's Peak Residence for their approval, and no money has been voted for it, yet money is being spent on the site.

11.—The most important and most pressing public building is undoubtedly the Post Office. Fifteen years ago it was reported in the plainest language that the present Post Office was much too small for the work which had to be done in it. In 1896 a strong Committee reported:—

"The accommodation in the Post Office, in spite of the recent arrangement by which the offices of the Attorney General and Crown Solicitor have been placed at the disposal of the Department, is so cramped that there is not sufficient room to sort two heavy mails at a time, while the space devoted to the business of the Parcels Post is insufficient to secure the safe custody of parcels."

There has been a vast increase in the business of the Post Office since that report was written. There are many more mails coming in. There will soon be a fortnightly German mail in addition. Captain Hastings's reports emphasize more emphatically the need of space and the impossibility of working the Post Office with ordinary success without more space. The easy and successful working of the Post Office is of the first importance not merely for the business of Hongkong but of all China and Japan. The Post Office is a most successful revenue-making Department, yet the construction of a new Post Office is put off until the Law Courts are finished, in other words, *ad Kalendas Græcorum*, for no one knows when the new Law Courts will be commenced. Government land previously appropriated for the purpose is lying idle. Interest is being lost on the money sunk in its reclamation; it is abundantly ample in size for a first class Post Office and most conveniently situated; it is a site deliberately

selected by a strong Committee in 1896 for the purpose of a Post Office, whose report was approved by the Governor and Council and not objected to by the Secretary of State. Messrs. Cooper, Thomson, Chater, McConachie, and Sir Thomas Jackson were the members of the Committee. Their opinions and recommendations were set aside in 1898 in "Public Works Committee" by the vote of the Chairman only, the Director of Public Works newly arrived in the Colony.

However strong may be the arguments from convenience in favour of the site of the present Post Office and Supreme Court for the construction of the new Post Office, they become valueless, and worse than valueless, when it is discovered that the site can not be made use of for an unknown period, not less, at the very least, than five or six years.

It may be that the present site is the more convenient and the more central for the new Post Office and Treasury than the Reclamation site, although there is much to be said on both sides and the older and more experienced men in the Colony favour the latter and think that in a very short time it will be the true centre of the Colony, but these arguments, if they were very much more cogent than they are, must surely give way to the contention that on the Reclamation site a new and perfect Post Office could be completed in two years from date; (there are local architects who could most certainly do the work if the Government are unable to do it), while if the present site is to be the site of the new Post Office we must drag along in our present discreditable state for five years more, going from bad to worse each year as business grows.

As to the financial aspects of the case, a letter from the undersigned to the Chamber of Commerce of the 17th ultimo (copy attached) shews clearly that the Treasury would profit largely by the removal of the Post Office and Supreme Court from their present position and by the sale of the land.

If the Public Works Department were properly manned or if private enterprise were availed of, there is no reason why both the new Law Courts and the Post Office should not go on together.

12.—Next in order to the Sanitary Works already indicated, and to the shelter at Victoria Gap and to the Post Office, would appear to come in importance the speedy extension of our means of obtaining, storing, and distributing Water. The waterworks are estimated to bring in a revenue to the Colony in 1900 of \$182,000. The actual cost of maintenance is estimated at \$19,700, leaving a balance to credit of Water Account of say, \$112,300. It is proposed to spend on Water Account a sum of \$73,000: \$15,000 in carrying out the Taitam Extension, \$27,000 on waterworks in Victoria and the Hill District, \$11,000 on meters, &c., and \$20,000 on water supply in Kowloon.

In respect of this latter item no plans appear to have been prepared or submitted and therefore in obedience to the Secretary of State's instructions of 18th April 1899 no money can properly be asked for or voted for this work.

The Unofficial Members of Council formally protested in a memorandum dated 30th December, 1899, laid on the Council table on 22nd idem, against being asked to vote monies for works in respect of which no plans, statements or details of any kind had been prepared and submitted and of which they had not approved.

It is deeply to be regretted that with the experience of past years before us and with the rapid and rapidly increasing growth of the population in the island of Hongkong, no greater expenditure than \$15,000 is proposed for 1900 in adding to our means of Water Supply in the City of Victoria. An abundant supply is indispensable to the health of the Colony; a continuous supply throughout the year and especially towards the end of the dry season is absolutely essential for the effective operation of our separate system of sewage disposal. The separate system depends wholly on a perennial supply of water at all hours of the day and night for its successful working. It was sanctioned on the assurance that abundance of water would be found and every floor in every Chinese house was provided with water works on that assumption. Every year for months the supply has been intermittent only. No effort should be spared to provide for a

continuous water supply not merely for our present but for the growing population. A vote of \$15,000 for additional water supply in the island is wholly inadequate.

If the Staff is not strong enough to carry on the works necessary for an enlarged supply, it would be economy—true economy—to get a separate staff of Engineers equal to the work, as was done when the Taitam Reservoir was taken in hand, and establish a separate department. The Colonial Revenue is three millions and a quarter. The ordinary expenses of government and of the maintenance of existing works is two millions and three quarters. There is roughly half a million a year available for Extraordinary Public Works together with the surpluses from past years.

13.—In conclusion, the first place in point of urgency should be given, in the appropriation of the Colonial Funds for Extra Works, to the sanitary wants of the Colony and among the sanitary wants of the Colony there stands in the forefront the pressing necessity of getting rid of the causes, or of any possible causes, of the visitations of plague. In that connection the necessity for an adequate number of latrines comes first, and no estimate for 1900 which does not provide for this can be satisfactory. Perhaps the next most important public work from the point of view of health is the water supply. The increase of the water supply is hardly a work to be completed, like the latrines, in a few months. It should be continuous over a number of years, but the amount allotted for it each year should bear a large proportion to the total amount of money available.

In respect of public buildings the coolie shelter at the Peak comes first in importance although least in amount. After that the Post Office and after that, but a long way after, new Law Courts—the present Courts although inconvenient being adequate for the transaction of business.

Next in the order of importance come the new roads. Those in the New Territory first. They are required for the preservation of peace, and good government there as well as for the purpose of opening up the Territory for profitable use.

The present Estimates should be amended and recast. Treasurer's financial Returns and two statements of assets and liabilities on 31st December 1898 cannot both be correct. The estimates for Public Works Extraordinary need reconsideration from beginning to end; the works enumerated in them might well be arranged in the order of their importance and urgency instead of in their present apparently purposeless succession.

Then the available money should be appropriated to the several works in the order in which they stand on the Estimates, and if there is not enough to go round, the last on the list should be left over till some other year.

It is useless to plead the insufficiency of the staff of the Public Works Department as a reason for not proceeding with any urgent work or works. Extraordinary works should be provided for by the provision of additional strength for the Department or by special staff. At present with pressing work on hand the staff is being apparently reduced. It is certainly much less strong than it was ten years ago when the population was much less and the area of the Colony twenty-nine square miles instead of four hundred and twenty-nine.

Hongkong, 23rd November.

T. H. WHITEHEAD.

"The Moralist" of the *Straits Times* writes:—Many years ago it used to be customary to transport convicts from India to this colony; and, in the Assize Court, (this week, one was reminded of this system. Two Hindoos, who had been transported here about 70 years ago, appeared in court, one in the position of prisoner and the other as prosecutor. The former was supposed to be over 100 years of age, and his appearance certainly did not belie that, for a more decrepit-looking specimen of humanity it would be impossible to find; whilst his former companion was drawing close on his hundredth year. Notwithstanding their great age, however, the old men had not forgotten the way to settle their slight differences, and, in one of the scuffles, the "junior" member of the household had both his arms broken.

THE MISSING WELCH FUSILIERS.

MAGISTERIAL ENQUIRIES.

On 24th November Mr. Gomperts held an enquiry at the Magistracy into the circumstances attending the death of Private David Jordan, of the Royal Welch Fusiliers, whose body was found in the harbour near the Naval Yard on the 18th inst. His Worship also enquired into the death of Private Jones, of the R.W.F., whose body was found in the harbour on Monday afternoon.

Major Morris and Major Sir H. W. McMahon, R.W.F., and Major Riley, R.A.M.C. occupied seats on the bench.

Private Walker, of the Royal Welch Fusiliers, said he knew Private Jordan well. He last saw him alive about 11.20 p.m. on the 14th outside Praya East Hotel. Witness was on police duty at the time. Deceased went towards the Blue Buildings and then witness lost sight of him. Deceased was alone and appeared to be sober. He had not seen the body of deceased since it had been taken out of the harbour.

Private Herring, of the R.W.F., said he was on patrol duty with the previous witness on the night of the 14th inst. near the Praya East Hotel. He saw a man come out of the hotel. He did not know who it was until the previous witness told him it was Private Jordan. Deceased seemed to be sober, and walked towards the Blue Buildings under the verandah. There was no one with him at the time. He had not seen him since. Deceased was dressed in khaki uniform and carried a stick in his hand.

Private Jasper, of the R.W.F., said he knew deceased and last saw him near the Clock Tower at 10.20 p.m. on the 14th inst. He said to him "Good night, Jordan," and deceased said the same to him. Deceased was alone at the time and appeared to be sober. He had seen neither of the two bodies which had been taken out of the harbour.

Private Harding, of the R.W.F., said he knew deceased. He last saw him on the night of the 14th inst. He joined him at the canteen at about seven o'clock and was with him until about nine o'clock. Deceased staggered a little when he got up. They had four quart pots of beer between three of them. When he left him deceased said he was going to town. He saw the body of deceased after it had been exhumed. He identified the body as that of Jordan from his moustache and his arm. There were no tattoo marks on his arm whilst there were on that of Private Jones. He did not know Private Jones.

Private Edward Jones, of the R.W.F., said he knew deceased, whom he last saw alive at about a quarter to seven on Tuesday night, the 14th inst. Deceased came to his barrack-room and remained there about ten minutes. When he left he said he was going to the canteen, and witness said he would follow him when he had had a wash. When he joined deceased in the canteen he was with Private Harding. They had four quarts of beer between three of them. When deceased wished him good night at nine o'clock he staggered when he got up from the form. When he left deceased said he was going down the town. Witness remained in the canteen. He saw the body which was exhumed on Monday, and recognised it as that of Private Jordan. He could tell it by the moustache and hands, the latter being wrinkled. He did not know Private Jones by sight.

Constable Lacey said that about seven o'clock on the morning of the 18th inst. he went to the foreshore to the rear of the Naval Yard and there saw a dead body, dressed in the uniform of the Royal Welch Fusiliers. The head and arms were in the water. He removed the body to the Public Mortuary. He was present when the body was exhumed at the Cemetery. He was sure that the body which was exhumed was the same as that which he removed to the Mortuary on Saturday.

Dr. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer, said that on the morning of the 18th inst. he examined the body of a European dressed in khaki uniform which had been brought to the mortuary. The body had evidently been in the water for some days. The skin was all blanched by the sun and the eyeballs were very protuberant. There was a wound on the right temple. From the appearance of the wound it was impossible for him to state whether it might not have been caused by fishes eating

the skin after death. The stomach was full of food. The heart presented the appearance of death from shock. He found a fracture on the left side of the skull, and there were also bruises in the tissues of the scap on the left side of the head corresponding with the position of the fracture of the skull. Syncope was probably the cause of death, and this could have been caused by the fracture. The fracture might have been caused by a blow or by the man falling from a height and coming in contact with some hard substance. He could not say whether death took place before or after going into the water. The body was too decomposed to enable him to tell whether there was any alcohol in the stomach or not. On Saturday the body was said to be that of Private Henry Jones. He mentioned that it was rather difficult to identify a body when the features were so swollen. The appearances of the body were such as to lead one to suppose that death was not from drowning. He should say the body had been in the water for more than two days. He was told at the time that Jones had only been missing since the Thursday night previous, but the body looked as if it had been in the water before then.

John Bryant, senior ship-keeper of the hospital ship *Meeanee*, said that at about three o'clock on the afternoon of the 18th instant he saw a body at the Public Mortuary. He believed the body to be that of Private Jones, whom he had seen for between a fortnight and three weeks on the ship, Jones being on duty on the ship as a policeman. He knew Jones passably well by sight. He thought the body was that of Jones from the moustache and contour of the face. Before then he had reason to believe Jones had fallen into the water. He saw the body again when it had been exhumed. He did not know Private Jordan. He did not know at the time he saw the body on Saturday that Private Jordan was missing.

Sergeant Miller, of the R.A.M.C. said he saw the body of deceased on Saturday morning about 11 o'clock. He thought it was that of Private Jones, whom he had known by sight about three weeks. He thought the body was that of Private Jones because it was that of a soldier dressed in khaki; he thought Private Jones was the only soldier missing; and he thought the body had the appearance of Jones. He knew Private Jordan by sight. He could not say that there was much resemblance between him and Jones. When he saw the body on Saturday the face was all swollen up and the features so disfigured that it was almost impossible to identify it. When he saw the body he thought Private Jones was the only soldier who was supposed to have been drowned.

Private Thomas, of the R.W.F. (4732), said that on the afternoon of the 18th inst. he saw a body at the Mortuary. He was sent down to identify the body as that of Private Jones, but he saw that it was that of Private Jordan. He knew Jordan well, having messed with him. He also knew Private Jones. He knew the body was not that of Jones at first by finding no tattoo marks on the arms, Jones's arms being tattooed. Jones had a rose, shamrock, and thistle tattooed on his right arm, and he saw this mark on Jones's arm before the body was put in to the coffin. Jordan's clothing was marked 4727, which was his right number, and Jones's clothing was marked 488, which was his right number. When he found out that the body was not that of Jones he reported to the Corporal. He saw the second body on Wednesday, and identified it as that of Jones from the tattoo marks on the arms and the number on the clothing. He was prepared to swear that the first body he saw was not that of Jones but that of Jordan and that the second body was that of Private Jones. He knew both men well.

Private John Thomas, of the R.W.F. (No. 4745), also deposed to having identified the body at the mortuary on Saturday as that of Private Jordan. He knew Private Jones. The latter had tattoo marks on his arms and the other had not. He described the marks on Jones's arm, those including the rose, shamrock, thistle, and leek; the name "Ellen"; the lion and the unicorn, a palm tree, and a hand, heart, and "love." He knew both men well and was prepared to say on oath that the first body was that of Private Jordan and the other that of Private Jones.

The evidence in the other case was then taken.

Dr. Atkinson said that at 10 o'clock on Wednesday morning he made a post-mortem examination of the body of a male adult in khaki uniform which seemed to have been in the water at least two weeks. The skin and all the tissues were off and the skull exposed. The body was so decomposed that it was impossible to state what was the cause of death. Some of the skin was left on the right forearm and there were two marks clearly to be seen. The body was in his presence identified as that of Private Jones by three men of the regiment. They said they identified it by the tattoo marks on the arm.

Colour-Sergeant Pays of the R.W.F. also gave evidence as to identification.

Sergeant Gublay said that at 6.30 p.m. on the 21st inst. the body of a soldier was brought to the Police Station by Police Pinnacle No. 1. He saw the body taken in to a sling by the Police Pinnacle about 200 yards east of Kellet Island. He searched the body and found the number 4888 on the tunic and trousers. In the right breast pocket he found the pass produced and numbered 4904 and the name of Private Desmond written in. In the right breast pocket of the tunic he found a clay pipe and in the right trousers pocket 27 cents. He took the belt produced from the body and then took the body to the mortuary. The body was very much decomposed. On the morning of the 22nd inst. he went to the mortuary, and Privates Hughes, Evans, and Desmond identified the body as that of Private Jones by the tattoo mark on the right arm—a tree with a snake crawling up it. The stick and cap produced, which belonged to Private Jones, were found at the foot of the ladder on the *Meeanee*.

Constable Copeland said that on the night of the 16th, at 11.30, he was on duty on the wharf near Queen's Buildings when Private Jones passed him and bid him "Good night." He was going in the direction of the Government Wharf.

Leung Kum, owner of the sampan 2523, said that on the evening of the 16th instant, a little after 11 o'clock, he took two Europeans aboard and took one to the *Tamar* and the other to the *Meeanee*. He identified the man he took to the *Tamar*. The other man was dressed in a kind of light clothing. The passenger he landed on to the *Meeanee* paid him 20 cents. He saw him ascend the steps at the *Meeanee*. He did not see whether any one else was there as well. There was no light at the foot of the ladder. He did not hear a splash or any one call out. He arrived at the *Meeanee* about 11.45.

Hedley Beer, engine-room artificer, said that about 11.30 p.m. on Thursday, the 16th, he saw a private of the Welch Fusiliers in a sampan, but he did not know Private Jones. He got into the sampan with him when he learned he was going to the *Meeanee*. He asked him what he was doing on the *Meeanee* and he said he was on police duty. The man spoke at random and seemed to be under the influence of liquor. When witness arrived at the *Tamar* the sampan went away and witness saw no more of the man.

Private Edward Hughes, of the R.W.F., said he last saw Private Jones on the 16th. He met him in the "Shamrock" and left him there at about a quarter past ten that night. Jones had had a drop of drink. Another Private Hughes, of "C" Company, was in Jones's company when he came away. He saw the body of a European in the Public Mortuary on the 22nd and identified it as that of Jones.

Private Desmond, of the R.W.F., identified the pass produced as his. He lent it to Private Jones on the 16th inst. at 6 p.m. to make a copy. He did not see him again that evening.

Sergeant Miller, of the R.A.M.C., said he did not remember Private Jones coming on board the *Meeanee* on the evening of the 16th. At about 12.50 the following morning he was awakened by hearing a splash in the water, just underneath his cabin window, which was open. He listened and heard a second splash. He jumped out of bed and went to the window. He leaned out and he thought he could see the shoulders and arms of a man disappear round the stern of the ship. At that time the tide was running rather fast. He ran out of his cabin, calling out to Mr. Bryant, the ship-keeper, whose cabin

was opposite his, that he thought there was a man overboard. They ran on deck together shouting for the boats crews. They saw a man in the water a matter of 200 yards distant being carried away. A boat was pushed off almost immediately, it only being just by the side, and witness shouted out to Mr. Bryant the direction the man was in. He answered that he saw him and pulled towards him. In about three-quarters of an hour the boat returned without having found the man. Besides Mr. Bryant, Mr. Sharp, the assistant shipkeeper, and three Chinese, went in the boat. He went round to see who was missing and found that Private Jones, of the R.W.F., who was on police duty on board the *Meeanee*, was missing. His cabin was about 11 yards abaft the gangway nearer the stern. He saw no sampan about. It was a very moonlight night.

John Bryant, shipkeeper on the *Meeanee*, said that early on the morning of the 17th he was awakened by Sergeant Miller calling. "Mr. Bryant, I think there's a man overboard, I've heard a splash." He at once turned out and called the boats crew. Then he went back to the accommodation ladder and saw something lying on the lower platform. He went down and found a cap, a stick, and a newspaper, and took them on deck with him. He then got into a boat along with Mr. Sharp, the assistant shipkeeper, and ordered the boat's crew to push off. He steered the boat the way the tide was running and at the same time called out to Sergeant Miller, who was on the poop, "Can you see him? In what direction?" He then heard a gurgling cry along the water and on stooping down he saw what he took to be a man's head, about 80 or 100 yards away, but before he could reach the spot it had disappeared. He searched around, still going in the direction of the current, but could see no signs of anyone. Coming back he told the crew to hail some junks which were near the *Sovue* and ask those on board if they had heard anything and they replied that they had not. There were watchmen on board the *Meeanee*. There were seven of them. They took one hour each from 10 o'clock in the morning. They had six life-buoys on board. He did not throw anything overboard, because his place was the boat. There was a light kept burning all night on the lower platform of the gangway.

Lai Tam said he was a house coolie, but had acted as substitute watchman on board the *Meeanee*. His hours for keeping watch were from 12 midnight to one. He had been on board 13 or 14 days. When he was on watch he carried a lighted lamp in his hand and walked about. He remembered a boat being launched one night to look for a man who was said to have gone overboard. Before the boat was launched or Mr. Bryant came on deck he was lighting a lamp on the bow of the steamer, the light having gone out. He thought it was a moonlight night. Before this happened he did not see a sampan come to the gangway, nor did he see anyone on deck or hear anyone call out before Mr. Bryant came up. He was walking about except when lighting the lamp. There was a lamp burning on the gangway.

Chung Kwai, a coolie and watchmen on board the *Meeanee*, said he came off duty at 12 o'clock at midnight on the 16th inst. Between 11 and 12 he did not see any sampan come alongside the ship and someone get on board. When on watch he walked about the deck, and if any boat had come up he would have seen it. When on duty if there was anyone standing on the gangway he could see them. When he went off duty he took a hand lamp and called his successor, who came on deck.

His Worship adjourned the enquiry until Monday morning, saying that he wished for some further information.

The enquiry was resumed on the 27th Nov.

Inspector Cuthbert gave evidence as to the wharves along Praya East and the condition they are in. No sampan was allowed to take up passengers after eight o'clock except at Arsenal Street steps.

Major Sir H. W. McMahon, of the R.W.F. produced the defaulters book, from which it appeared that Jones had no entry for drunkenness against him, while Jordan had five, including three for this year. Jones was 22 years of age. He enlisted at Trelegar on the 7th January, 1896, and was a native of Rhumaley,

Monmouthshire. Before entering the army he was a collier. Jordan was 25 years of age and enlisted at Trelegar on the 7th July, 1895. He was a native of Bedwelly, Monmouthshire, and was described as a labourer. The enquiry was adjourned until Monday next.

OXFORD LOCAL EXAMINATIONS, JULY, 1899.

Superintending Examiner, Rev. T. W. Pearce.
BOYS.

Senior A. A.—

(Q) Hayward, C. B. * (Q) Tse Ching-fong
(Q) Li Chi-on (Q) Weng Tak-kwong
*Hayward was Distinguished in English.

Junior.—

(D) Compton, J. (J) Agan, D.
(D) Hastings, C. E. (J) Remedios, C. A.
(D) Long, E. (J) Rozario, E. T.
(D) Strangman, R. T. (J) Li Yat-choi.
(Q) Ghulamali, B.

Over Age—(D) Choy Po-sien.

Preliminary.—

(D) Begley, R. R. (D) Fan-kam.
(D) Drude, F. (D) Moy Hing, W. T.
Over Age—(D) Cheung U-kwong, and (J) Carvalho, V. J.

GIRLS.

Junior.—

(V) Lewis, E. (V) Schmidt, H. A.

Preliminary.—

Over Age—(T) Carroll, M.
D=Diocesan School. Q=Queen's College
J=St. Joseph's College. T=Private Tuition.
V=Victoria English School for Girls.
Certificates may be expected in a fortnight.

Geo. H. BATESON WRIGHT,
Honorary Local Secretary.

25th Nov., 1899.

PUNJOM MINING CO., LIMITED.

The following is the report for October of Mr. Bailey, the Manager at the Mines:—
TANKONG.

Adit levels.—A little low grade ore was taken out from here, and driving 30 ft. from the second uprise at stope No. 1, and some repairing of drives was the only work done here.

Level No. 1, (50 foot level). Stope No. 1.—This stope continued to give us a fair quantity of ore, but of lower grade than formerly, and work was almost entirely stopped here during the latter part of the month because of shortage of mining timbers and to await development as No. 2 stope is worked, per below.—A second uprise was put through to the Adit levels here in very fair ore all the way.

No. 2 Stope.—But little ore was mined here during the month as we had all the ore and rock from elsewhere to handle the mine is equipped to do. That mined was of good grade. —This ground is very heavy and difficult to keep timbered, being "swelling ground" because of the sulphurets in the ore expanding with oxidization as it is exposed to the air making retimbering the drives to here continually necessary, which has had due attention.—

Level No. 2 (100 foot level).—South drive from crosscut No. 1.—Driven 7 feet making a total of 66 feet from crosscut on the lode or lode formation. I am now somewhat doubtful if we are on a lode proper here; if we are it is very indefinite, and poorly defined, and what ore there is is practically of no value.

But little work was done here, principally because of shortage of labour; this work being prosecuted only when we have men to spare.

South drive from northwest drive from shaft.—This drive was not extended any, but widening it a little further 6 feet along it was done, some good ore being taken out in doing so. A stope will be opened above this drive late, where we will get some good ore, how much cannot now be estimated.

Northeast driven from Northwest drive from shaft.—Driven 33 ft making a total of 52 ft. This was driven on a line of formation which I think likely the same as the south drive from crosscut No. 1 is on in an opposite direction of course. Nothing of value, or of but little promise has so far been developed therein.

A crosscut was driven northerly from this drive 5 ft to test some white quartz but showed nothing of value.—

Uprise No. 1.—Continued on the lode or lode formation 12 ft on an incline of about 15 deg. from vertical, making a total distance of 50 ft. from Level No 2. Here again the formation is broken up and indefinite.

Product.—But very little of the rock from the workings at this level is sent to the mill, it practically all being too low grade to warrant it.

Shaft.—This was continued vertically in country rock, though a lode like formation was passed through 21 ft making it a total depth of 151 feet. At 150 ft depth preparations were commenced to open out level No 3.

SWAN.

No. 2 Workings shaft.—This was sunk 15 ft. on a slight incline, on the lode, making it a total of 47 feet. At the point adit crosscut of this shaft a chamber was out to facilitate working from there.

Adit Crosscut.—This was discontinued upon reaching the shaft per last month's report.

North Adit drive.—Driven 26 feet 6 inches, making a total of 83 feet 6 inches from the surface, but nothing of value or promise being found in the 1 tier work, it was discontinued.

GUBAU.

Nevel No. 1. North drive from winze.—Driven 2 feet 6 inches, making a total of 103 feet from the winze, when it was discontinued, there being no ore showing therein and this ground can better be developed by a drive later from the crosscut from shaft. A small crosscut was put in west from this drive 13 feet 6 inches but developed no ore.

North drive from crosscut from shaft.... Driven 35 feet 6 inches, making a total of 93 feet on a good well defined lode all the way, which continues about 4 feet to 5 feet thick, but while still carrying fair gold not so good as where driven on last month.

South drive from winze.—Work was resumed here and 87 feet driven, making a total of 111 feet 6 inches from winze, some little low grade ore was had here in places and in other places it cut out altogether. As a whole this drive cannot be said to look promising now.

Shaft.—We have been delayed in getting started sinking this for lack of timber to put in pump.

PREAN.

Shaft.—A vertical shaft was started here near the old No. 4 East workings, off of the lode, 8 ft by 4 ft in the clear and sunk 13 ft 6 in, and timbered for a permanent engine shaft.

Prospecting.—Considerable surface prospecting along the line of the lode was done, but nothing new developed.

REDUCTION WORKS.

Mill.—This was run equivalent to 29 days full time, 10 stamps on headings and 12 stamps and 2 concentrators part on headings and part on Tankong ore; mostly on the latter, crushing ore and yielding product as follows:—

Ore.	Tons.	Amalgam ozs.	Bullion ozs.	* Concentrates Estimated Tons dry weight.	* Gold fine in Concentr. 1,000
Tankong	951	110	37.50	52	160.37
Headings	2036	204.4	69.87	0	—

Total 2987 314.4 107.17 52 160.37

* Assay value 3 ozs. 1 dwts. 16 2-6 grs. In Bullion 91.81 ozs.

The headings milled, as will be noted, were unusually low grade, being from a pile that has been left more or less in the way for years, doubtless because of their very low grade.

The Tankong ore was also unusually low grade, because of the impracticability and inadvisability of sorting that mined to make it average higher, as, not having an unlimited quantity of this ore I think it best to mill everything that will give a profit at all, now.

GENERAL.

Labour.—This continues insufficient, particularly for getting timber.

Water Power.—This was insufficient for power to run the mill a short while early in the month and steam auxiliary had to be used, but during the latter part thereof was ample.

Transport.—We are still short of sufficient transport for our needs because of continued disease among our bullocks.

Machinery.—This is working well at both Tankong and Gubau.

Surveying.—Survey of our territory is progressing.

Roads and Bridges.—Because of heavy rains these are not in the best condition, but kept passable.

Health.—This was generally good during the season.

GREAT EASTERN AND CALEDONIAN GOLD MINING CO., LIMITED.

The General Agents of the Great Eastern and Caledonian Gold Mining Co., Limited, Messrs. Lutgens, Einstmann & Co., have received the following report from the manager at the mines:—

Gentlemen.—Confirming my report of Oct. 11th, 1899, I beg to submit to you the following:—

Bank of England.—The tribute party (J. Rogers & Cash) are still at work, engaged in breaking out a crushing from the slope north of the shaft and 25 feet from the surface. They have at present 4 tons at grass and expect a yield of 1 oz. to the ton.

Zulu.—The tributaries (Everret and Carine) in the mine have abandoned their tribute. We have not received any further offers for tributes in the various other shafts and stopes.

In company with Messrs. Jas. Anderson and Carl Georg I have carefully inspected the mines at Dark Corner and feel very much impressed with what I have seen there, and will forward to you my detailed report and plans by the next mail. I have also shown Mr. Jas. Anderson the Woodstock mine referred to in my last report—I remain, gentlemen, Yours faithfully

T. WATERS.

JELEBU MINING AND TRADING CO., LIMITED.

DISAPPEARANCE OF THE LODE.

(SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS")

Singapore 27th November.

The Jelebu lode has disappeared.

Additional pumping machinery has been ordered.

The directors state that fresh capital will be required.

THE INTERNATIONAL COTTON MANUFACTURING CO., LIMITED.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The fourth annual meeting of the shareholders of the International Cotton Manufacturing Co., Limited, was held at the offices, Shanghai, on the 23rd November, Mr. David Brand presided, and there were also present:—Messrs. J. F. Seaman, C. Rayner, Chu Pao-san, and Chu Shing-ching (Directors), and E. Davis, W. H. Poate, G. E. Burgoyne, R. S. Harvey, H. G. George, James Jones (Manager), H. P. Wilkinson (Legal Adviser), and J. W. Ogilvy (Secretary).

After the usual formal opening,

The Chairman said—The report having now been a considerable time in your hands I shall ask you to take it as read and proceed at once to refer to such items in the accounts as seem to require comment. Beginning with the profit and loss account the balance at debit Tls. 79,319.35 is the amount brought forward from the accounts to 31st March last. The directors' and auditors' fees require no remark beyond that, through the absence on the part of one of the Board, directors' fees for the half year are correspondingly less. Following the method previously adopted of apportioning the interest on overdraft at our bankers we have charged to profit and loss account such proportion as represents the excess of expenditure on capital account for property, plant, etc., over and above the actual share capital, estimating such excess at the round sum of Tls. 250,000 and crediting the account with rent received on the Chinese houses as actual receipts against such outlay. The remainder of the interest is debited to working account as due in respect of working capital. The arbitration in settlement of the final account with the contractors for the machinery was foreshadowed in the Chairman's speech at the meeting of 22nd November last.

Its result was a saving to the Company upon the sum claimed of Tls. 1,418.39, leaving a net amount of Tls. 4,615.12 that has been charged to plant and machinery account. The cost of the arbitration has been however, passed direct to profit and loss account. We have written off for depreciation Tls. 25,000. As stated in the report, the directors have thought it wise to open this account, which is in pursuance of the course indicated at our last meeting, and trust their doing so will meet your approval. It would have been permissible to postpone this matter and apply the whole proceeds derived from this year's working to the reduction of the balance at debit of profit and loss. But this account had to be started some time, and in our opinion the present moment is an opportune one and the account once being opened it will be for the shareholders to see that it is duly cared for in the future. As to whether the amount fully represents the depreciation incurred by the two years' working, in the absence of expert opinion it can only be a matter of conjecture, but it is a substantial sum and in the directors' opinion it is sufficient for the purpose, especially in view of the fact that the machinery has been kept in thorough order and could not be replaced at the cost at which it stands on our books. Coming to the statement of our liabilities and assets, our capital account is unaltered. The overdraft with the Russo-Chinese Bank of 307, odd, thousand taels is under the circumstances not a very excessive amount, taking into consideration the fact already referred to that fully Tls. 250,000 is represented by our excess assets in permanent investments. "Sundry creditors" sundry amounts due from the Company which have since been almost all cleared off, and their total is offset by the stocks of yarn and cotton, etc., on the opposite side. On the credit side the land improvement account is unchanged. The property account, which in the present balance sheet includes all buildings and land owned by the Company, has been reduced by writing off Tls. 1,473.93. The ginning mill and steam launch accounts appear as before and undoubtedly they are worth considerably more than their book value. There is a slight increase in furniture account which needs no comment. "Sunday debtors" are amounts due to the Company which have since been almost all realised. Unexpired fire insurance account is the actual value of unexpired policies. The stocks on hand of yarn represent an amount of 509 bales already manufactured of which 240 are paid for. As regards store and appliances, coal, raw cotton, etc., the amounts at credit of the various accounts have been thoroughly verified. The item in suspense is a matter of account with the American Trading Company. I have now, gentlemen, gone over the items of the various accounts in the balance sheet and should any shareholders desire fuller information as to any of them I will endeavour to furnish it. The business of the past six months, indeed of the past nine, has been satisfactory and with a continuance of a similar state of things the balance at debit of profit and loss should soon become a thing of the past. As mentioned in the report, our production is sold to 31st December, so that a further three months' good trading is secured, always provided no untoward accidents such as fire or serious disturbance to labour interrupt the running of the mill. In the period under review we have had very little trouble on the latter point and the production has been well kept up. During the recent harvest operations, however, a certain number of hands have always been missing and the daily output has been somewhat reduced. Now these are over we have a return to our normal condition. The general condition of the mill is very satisfactory, the machinery is in excellent order, and the business runs very smoothly. As regards the Foreign employees at the mill the only change to note is that Mr. W. Walmaley, spinner, has gone home on expiry of his agreement and will be replaced by Mr. Lawrence, who has been well recommended and is expected here in the course of a week or two. The directors are glad to have the opportunity of recording their satisfaction with the way in which the staff have performed their duties. As regards the coming year's trade, whilst it may be unwise to count on as uniform a good business as that under review, the directors

fully anticipate a generally profitable result. The Company's yarn has made its mark and commands a high price on the market. The raw material will undoubtedly average a higher rate than that current during 1899, but there is no reason to suppose the prices obtained for the yarn will not counterbalance such advance. Compared with both India and Japan the advantages are on the side of the local production and in a word your directors look with every confidence upon the future of this enterprise, and are far from sharing in the pessimistic view of cotton mills in China recently published as emanating from an Indian expert, and which are evidently composed for local digestion. I have only to say that I will reply to any questions or criticisms by the meeting.

No comment was made and the Chairman accordingly proposed that the accounts for the year ending 30th September, 1899, be accepted and passed.

Mr. J. F. Seaman seconded, and it was carried.

The Chairman proposed that the election of Mr. C. Rayner to the Board of Directors be confirmed.

Mr. Chu Shing-ching seconded, and it was carried.

Mr. E. Davies proposed that Mr. Chu Pao-san be re-elected a Director.

Mr. G. E. Burgoyne seconded, and it was carried.

Mr. W. H. Poate proposed that Messrs. R. Eastlack and A. R. Leake be re-elected auditors for the current year.

Mr. R. S. Harvey seconded, and it was carried. The meeting ended with the customary vote of thanks to the Chairman.

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS.

The directors have now the pleasure to submit the audited accounts for the half-year ending 30th September, 1899.

As the shareholders will recollect, the accounts for the six months ending 31st March have already been presented and the debit balance there shown Tls. 79,319.35 is therefore the first item in the present profit and loss account.

In presenting these accounts the directors trust that under the circumstances they will prove satisfactory to the shareholders and that the hope expressed in the last report as to the result of the present financial year has been justified.

The net profits for the six months under review are Tls. 55,350.13, and if the net earnings for the first quarter of the year are added, viz., Tls. 24,286.36, a total profit of Tls. 79,636.49 for the nine months is shown.

It may be a matter of surprise to some shareholders that having still the debit balance of Tls. 23,696.22 to face, the directors have thought it expedient to write off the sum of Tls. 25,000 as depreciation from the amount at debit of the plant and machinery account, and by so doing to increase the sum at debit of profit and loss account to Tls. 48,969.22. As, however, the mill has been running for two years they deemed it but right to make the transfer and to open a depreciation account, and they doubt not that upon reflection the shareholders will concur in this view.

The conditions of the yarn trade for the nine months ending 30th September have been fairly favourable, and the Company have had no difficulty in disposing of their output on satisfactory terms, and as regards the current three months the directors have only to add that the entire production had been sold at a fair profit.

Directors.—Mr. E. A. Probst resigned his seat at the Board on leaving for home. Mr. Charles Rayner (of Messrs. Carlowitz & Co.) was invited to take a seat on the Board in September: he accepted and his appointment requires confirmation. Mr. J. L. Scott left for home in the spring on leave of absence; on his return he will resume his seat.

Mr. Chu Pao-san retires by rotation, but offers himself for re-election.

Auditors.—The Directors have to record with much regret the death of Mr. T. Wood; Mr. A. R. Leake was appointed to fill the vacancy. The accounts have been audited by Mr. Rufus F. Eastlack and Mr. A. R. Leake, and both gentlemen offer themselves for re-election.

JAS. JONES.
Manager.

Shanghai, 9th November.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT TO 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1899.	
Dr.	Tls.
To balance 31st March, 1899	79,819.35
To auditors' fees	250.00
To directors' fees	1,875.00
To interest account	8,750.00
Less rent on Chinese houses	2,492.33
	6,257.67
To arbitration fees in Manchester and expenses	816.49
To plant and machinery—	
Amount written off for depreciation	25,000.00
	Tls. 113,518.51

To balance	
	Tls. 48,969.22
Cr.	
By working account 30th September, 1899 ..	64,503.13
By transfer fees	46.14
By balance	48,969.22
	Tls. 113,518.51

LIABILITIES.	
	Tls.
To capital account	838,400.00
To Russo-Chinese Bank—	
Overdraft in current account 307,656.24	
Less cash with compradore ..	6,609.60
	801,046.64
To sundry creditors	105,779.49
	Tls. 1,245,226.13

ASSETS.	
	Tls.
By land improvement	3,858.38
By property account	807,383.04
	311,221.42
By plant and machinery	759,690.95
Less written off for depreciation ..	25,000.00
	734,690.95
By ginning mill, plant account	22,585.68
By steam launch account	3,500.01
By furniture account	5,622.30
By sundry debtors	3,302.86
By unexpired fire premia	6,646.07
By stocks on hand—	
Yarn contracted for but not delivered ..	31,984.11
Less paid for but not delivered ..	15,219.47
	16,764.64
Sundry mill stores & appliances ..	20,952.07
Coal	3,079.07
Seed cotton	6,502.29
Raw cotton	41,404.15
Cotton by-products (waste)	16,953.92
Cotton seed	916.00
	106,671.14
By profit and loss account—	
Balance on 30th September, 1899 48,969.22	
Item in suspense	3,116.48
	52,085.70
	Tls. 1,245,226.13

CRICKET.

VARSITIES AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS V. THE REST.

This match ended in a draw. At the conclusion of the first innings the Varsities and Public Schools, who went in first, had compiled 121 against 103. The second innings were not finished. The Rev. G. R. Vallings, who captained the V. and P. S., made the top score, 22, for his side, Lieut. Izat's 45 heading the list for the Rest. Score:—

VARSITIES AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS.	
First Innings.	
Rev. F. T. Johnson, run out	0
T. J. Wild, c Johnson, b Ward	25
Lieut. Hill, R.W.F., b Lee	12
Lieut. Rotherham, R.W.F., b Reinold ..	6
D. Wood, c Grant Smith, b Johnson, R.W.F.	4
Rev. G. R. Vallings (capt.), c Reinold, b Lee	32
Lieut. Ball Acton, R.W.F., c Ward, b Lee ..	12
Major Buttanshaw, A.S.C., b Lee	4
E. C. Smith, R.N., c Stevens, b Lee	7
Lieut. Lewis, R.A., b Lee	0
Lieut. Moreton, R.N., not out	0
Extras	19
Total	121

THE REST.	
First Innings.	
Lieut. Johnson, R.W.F., c Wild, b Vallings ..	0
Lieut. Reinold, R.N., c Ball Acton, b Wild ..	9
A. G. Ward (capt.), b Rev. Johnson	31
J. C. Ross, b Wild	1
R. E. Lee, c Ball Acton, b Wild	2
Lieut. Izat R.A., c Lewis, b Vallings	45
J. Grant Smith, b Hill	16
Lieut. Wilkinson, R.A., c Hill, b Vallings ..	0
F. H. Kew, c Rev. Johnson, b Vallings	1
Lieut. Stockwell, R.W.F., b Hill	0
T. S. Stevens, not out	0
Extras	3
Total	103

VARSITIES AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Second Innings.	
Lieut. Moreton, R.N., b Reinold	10
E. C. Smith, R.N., not out	24
Rev. F. T. Johnson, c Reinold, b Izat	5
Lieut. Ball Acton, R.W.F., c Buttanshaw, b	
Wilkinson	2
D. Wood, b Ward	13
Lieut. Hill, R.W.F.	
J. Wild	
Rev. Vallings	
Lt. Rotherham, R.W.F.	did not bat
Major Buttanshaw	
Lieut. Lewis, R.A.	
Extras	2
Total	55

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

VARSITIES AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS.	
First Innings.	
Overs.	Maid. Runs. Wides. N.B. Wickets.
Reinold	11 3 23 — — 2
Lee	11.4 4 27 — — 6
Johnson	8 1 9 — — 1
Ward	5 — 16 — — 1
Ross	8 4 15 — — —
Izat	7 4 12 — — —

THE REST.

First Innings.	
Overs.	Maid. Runs. Wides. N.B. Wickets.
Vallings	8.1 — 37 — — 4
Wild	7 — 41 — — 3
Rev. Johnson ..	3 — 19 — — 1
Hill	4 2 8 — — 2

VARSITIES AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Second Innings.	
Overs.	Maid. Runs. Wides. N.B. Wickets.
Reinold	5 — 21 — — 1
Izat	5 2 9 — — 1
Wilkinson	2 — 11 — — 1
Johnson	2 — 8 — — —
Ward	3.5 — 4 — — 1

FOOTBALL.

H.K.F.C. V. A. CO., R.W.F.

The Hongkong Football Club had for antagonists on Wednesday the A of the Royal Welch Fusiliers, which is reputed to be one of the strongest, if not the strongest, team in the Regiment. The Club were one or two short of their best eleven, but had nevertheless a strong side—too strong for the soldiers.

Up to half time the Club had the best of the play and notched two goals, the first coming, I think, from the foot of Green, whilst the second was put through by one of the Fusiliers backs. After the interval the game was very even; but the soldiers spoiled several opportunities by off side play. They were near scoring more than once, the Club backs being none too sure, but Kew in goal was particularly safe. The Club forwards were not idle and Noble got a smart goal from a pass by Green. The Fusiliers had very hard lines in one attempt to score.

The ball was swung across from the left wing into the goal mouth and the right wing and centre forward threw themselves bodily on to it. Kew, however, got the ball away in some manner, the centre forward going in the net and the wing over the goal line. The game ended Club three goals, A Co. R.W.F. nil, the soldiers not taking their defeat kindly.

The public cannot complain of a lack of football games to witness just now, for concurrent with the above match there was also a game in progress between the 25th S.D., R.A., and H.M.S. Barfleur on the Happy Valley.

Both teams were well represented and a level and interesting game was the result. The Barfleur scored twice to the Artillery's once, the result thus being.

H.M.S. Barfleur,	2
25th S.D., R.D.	1

H.K.F.C. "A" TEAM V. "FAME" AND "WHITING."

The Football eleven from H. M. Destroyers Fame and Whiting opposed the Hongkong Football Club's A team on Wednesday afternoon. Jenkins failed to put in an appearance for the A's, who had in consequence to play throughout with only two half backs. Although thus handicapped they kept out their opponents during the first half, the interval arriving with a clean sheet, and then in the second period were the first to score, Liband making the shot. The Navy men had rather the best of the play, their left forwards putting in some good combined runs and their outside right also playing well. Towards the end of the game their inside right player sent in a long shot which

Kew just kept out from under the bar. He was unable to clear far enough and the sailors' centre forward meeting at close quarters had no difficulty in equalising. Result, Club A team 1 goal; destroyers 1 goal. This is the third match the A team has played, all three games being drawn. It was very hard lines for it, having to play a man short in yesterday's game, as this doubtless postponed its first win.

H.K.F.C. V. A. CO., R.W.F.

The Hongkong Football Club Rugby team seems invincible this season. It had already defeated the Navy, the Royal Welch Fusiliers, and the Garrison; and Tuesday it took on the Navy for the second time of asking and again beat it decisively. In the first half McMurtrie got over the line for the Club, gaining a try, and taking the place kick, was also successful in converting. After the interval the Club kept the play for some time in Navy territory but was unable to materialize and then the Navy took up the attack. They held the advantage for some little time and that sterling player Tompkinson taking an opportune pass got cleverly over the line. The angle was difficult and the attempt to convert failed. After this the play went again in the Club's favour. Hancock made ground with a strong run, being brought down only a few yards from the goal line. From a subsequent scrum Vyvyan got hold and had no difficulty in scoring a try which McMurtrie made into a major point with a very fine kick. This appeared to demoralize the Navy for they lost all power to hold the Club and ere long Williamson was over the line again for the latter, placing the ball right between the posts. McMurtrie again took the kick and had not the slightest difficulty in converting. The whistle then sounded leaving the result, Club 3 goals=15 points, Navy 1 try=3 points. McMurtrie had a big share in the victory for besides his fine place kicking he was in the thick of the game, rendering excellent service, throughout. Hancock put in valuable work for the Club too; whilst Tompkinson played conspicuously well for the Navy.

FOOTBALL NOTES.

BY QUIDNUNG.

27th November.

During the past week there were two very interesting Rugby matches. On Tuesday the Army somewhat easily beat the Navy scoring 3 goals and 1 try to 1 goal, and on Thursday after a most closely contested game the Hongkong Football Club beat the Garrison by 1 goal (5 points) to nil.

Now, whilst there is so much enthusiasm, is the time for Rugbyites to evolve some scheme to sustain the interest in the game. I would therefore draw their attention again to my suggestion re a championship, stated in my last week's notes, with the hope that they may find it feasible. Interest is always greater where there is some incentive, and the honour of being styled "Champions" I am sure would be coveted. It has been stated to me that the Hongkong Football Club could not put a decent 15 on the field without calling on either Army or Navy officers, but I doubt this. It is very true that the officers give them considerable assistance, but for all that I think the Club could manage to give a creditable display without their aid. However, be that as it may, it is no argument for or against a championship, and whoever might win, it would always be interesting to know which were strongest—Navy, Garrison, or civilians.

The Hongkong Football Club's Association team had just its match in the eleven from the 25th S.D. and 25th E.D. R.A., on Monday last, and neither side succeeded in scoring.

"A" team with a pretty strong eleven (on paper) were, on Wednesday, only able to cry quits with a rather weak Victoria Recreation side. The game was keenly contested, though not on scientific lines, and there was plenty of excitement. The Club had rather hard luck in not scoring in the second half, but the end came with no goals. Pinckney and Jenkins showed good form for the A's, the latter being particularly useful with his head. Hornby, though playing better at half than at back, has disappointed me, as on his six-a-side form I thought he might qualify for the eleven. He is not at all sure in his kick and gets flurried at close quarters. Craig put in good work as open half for the

V.R.C. Taylor and Seth were best forward, though Loureiro shows promise. Neither Tuohy (back) nor Henderson (half) were up to form.

By the way, speaking of this match brings to my mind the question of uniform. It is customary for football clubs to have distinctive costumes, and although it is very nice and looks well for all to be clad alike, it is not at all a matter of sentiment. It is absolutely necessary for the correct playing of the game that a player should be able to distinguish at a glance who is for him and who is against him, for there is not time in a football match to make minute examinations. In the match in question the Club's A team were advertised to play in colours; and they did—in quite a variety of colours. There were blue and white quarters, blue and white rings, scarlets, etc., etc. It was quite trying to the eyes. The V.R.C. were just as bad, but then we expect an example from the Hongkong Football Club.

It is announced that the A team will always play in colours. Let us hope, then, that it will get a uniform colour and appear on the field smart and comely to look upon. I would recommend the members of the V.R.C. Club, too, to get their proper colours and have a little pride in the appearance of their team. This lack of pride in appearance on the field is very prevalent in the colony and it is common to see a player take his place with the correct shirt but with say a dirty old pair of grey knickers on instead of black or navy blue. This last shortcoming may not be a serious one, but it spoils the whole appearance of the team, and surely no individual with any regard for his club will let even this trivial fault rest at his door.

The Engineers Institute Club gets over the dress difficulty by providing the players with uniforms, but this is not customary nor should it be necessary.

On Saturday both the Hongkong Football Club and the Engineers Institute Football Club had games, so not being ubiquitous I had to decide between them. As I wished to see the Engineers full team out I wended my way to Causeway Bay to see what they could do with C Co., Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

Owing to injuries C Co. could not put on their usual team, the principal absentee being Corpl. Evans, their brilliant goal keeper. C Co. are not great exponents at the best of times, for a week ago B Co. R.W.F., put them out of the Hongkong Shield Competition with a defeat of 8 to 1, whilst on Friday last in the Regimental shield competition G. Co. R.W.F. beat their victors by 5 to 1. This does not say much for the abilities of C Co. However to return to the game, the teams faced each other as follows:—

Engineers Institute:—Alexander, goal; J. Henderson and Dyer, backs; Ritchie, Wilson, and Tuohy, halves; and Lapsley, Smillie, Duncan, R. Henderson, and Galt, forwards.

C. Co. R.W.F.:—McEwen, goal; Lambert and Lewis, backs; Pretty, Pownall, and J. Jones, halves; and Tomlinson, Miller, Lee, Corpl. Miller, Povey, and L. Jones, forwards.

Referee—Mr. D. Gow.

The Engineers had the advantage of a slight wind at the start and severely pressed their opponents. The game was very one sided and only sterling play by Lambert, the soldiers' right full back, and wild play by the Engineers forwards, prevented the latter scoring several times. As it was, some time elapsed ere the ball was put in the net. It was very seldom that C's forwards made any head way, but one or two spurts they made found both J. Henderson and Dyer, the Engineers backs, rather unsafe. After Galt had put in a good shot Tuohy made a fine attempt from half, but it remained for Lewis, the soldiers' left back, to make the first score, which he did by putting through his own goal. The second goal was scored by Galt after good work on the left wing; it was the only good goal scored. This gave the Engineers 2 to nil, at which the score stood at half time.

The second half of the game was very uninteresting, the Engineers, although playing a man short for a considerable time, having a great deal the best of matters. They messed about too much, however, and only added one more goal, and that one was a fluke. Duncan kicked in the direction of the goal and the custodian missing his kick the ball glanced into the net. Final result:—

Engineers... .. 3
C. Co... .. 0

Lambert of the Fusiliers was the best back on the field and Pownall, their centre half, was also a capable player. Of the other players I did not reckon much and collectively the team is very weak.

In the Engineers I was disappointed. Henderson and Dyer at back were not safe; both clean missing their kicks more than once. Ritchie tackled well at half, but placed indifferently. Wilson is their best man and was clever with both head and feet. Tuohy, though not neat, was effective. The forwards as a whole were only very moderate. Galt and R. Henderson were the best wing, but the half opposing them gave them every chance. Duncan was very poor in the centre, playing in quite a reckless and excited manner. Lapsley is not a success as a forward. Smillie is not bad, but is too smart. He wants to drop fooling and play the game, and this he is quite capable of doing.

The Hongkong Football Club were not quite fully represented on Saturday and received a beating of 2 to 1 from the Royal Engineers. At half time matters were level, no goals having been scored, but in the second half the R.E. had the best of the play and succeeded in netting the ball twice, Barlow being instrumental on both occasions. Towards the end of the game the Club got in a long shot, which Burrell misjudged, so at call of time matters stood:—

R.E. 2
Club 1

I suppose the R.E. men are shaking hands with themselves now. They are certainly to be congratulated on their display, for they played a good game, but I still doubt their ability to beat the Club's full team.

THE DISTURBANCES AT KWANG-CHAUWAN.

MURDER OF FRENCH OFFICERS.

SEIZURE OF THE TAOTAI OF HAINAN.

We translate the following from the *Courier d'Haiphong* of 21st November:—

We have received late and reliable news of the events that have during the last few days transpired at Kwangchauwan.

In a reconnaissance made by the marine infantry an adjutant and three men were wounded. The adjutant and one of the men succumbed to their injuries. The other two are still in hospital.

On Sunday morning, 12th November, a second lieutenant, who with a landing party from the *Descartes* was occupying the post of Mountao, on the left bank of the Matsue River, imprudently resolved to visit the hilly district on the opposite bank of the river, where there are the Chinese villages of Yonglick, Matchang, and the post of Tsekam. These places are the resorts of pirates.

Accompanied by a midshipman who was his second in command the lieutenant took a sampan and ordered the boat-people to take him across. The two officers carried no arms but their revolvers. The current was running strongly and the sampan was carried several hundred yards down stream before a landing was effected on the opposite bank. The officers landed, and from the camps they were seen for a short time going up and down the hills in the neighbourhood of the villages above mentioned, as they made up the bank towards the camp. Then they disappeared from view.

It was not long before they were attacked by a band of pirates. The lieutenant fell shot. His companion ran in the direction of the camp, but he in his turn was overtaken by the murderers; he discharged his revolver at them but was overpowered by numbers.

The pirates cut the heads off and mutilated the bodies of the pirates. The soldiers were able to recover the bodies and brought them back to the camp.

An expedition was organised on Thursday, the 16th, to operate against the Chinese villages and punish the authors of the crime. We have not learned the result. The *Benagali*, due to arrive to-day, will bring us the news.

We may add that the delimitation map was signed on the 14th by Admiral Courrejoles, and only details remain to be arranged.

We earnestly hope that something more will be obtained from China, who must be held responsible for the policing of her territory, and that the reprisals which we will be bound to make, will not be confined to the platonic satisfaction that we might derive from an expedition sent to avenge the murder of two sons of France.

The lieutenant who met his death under the circumstances above narrated arrived from France by the mail of 9th October. News of the midshipman's promotion to the rank of second lieutenant arrived at Kwangchauwan on the day of his murder.

Admiral Courrejoles has seized the Taotai of Hainan, who was on a Chinese gunboat in Hoiteon harbour. On this gunboat compromising papers were found proving the treacherous action of this interesting personage and his complicity with the rebels. He is detained as a hostage on board the *Entrecasteaux*. We should like to hear of his body hanging from the highest yard of the admiral's flag ship.

THE FOREIGN TRADE OF CHINA IN JULY-SEPTEMBER, 1899.

It is pleasant for us all, as well as for the Board of Revenue at Peking and the holders of bonds secured by the Customs Revenue, to see another quarter's returns showing such a satisfactory condition of commerce. The total collection of dues and duties in the third quarter of 1899 is twenty-five per cent larger than in the same quarter of 1898, and nearly twenty-five per cent larger than in 1897. There are certainly three new ports this year. Kiaochau, Nanking, and Santuao, at which something over Tls. 32,000 was collected. We might fairly here renew our protest against the decision of the Customs, which has already caused great inconvenience in postal matters, to call the German port of Tsingtao, Kiaochau. It would be about as reasonable to call Gravesend, London and much more reasonable to call Woosung, Shanghai. Excluding those new ports and the other ports that have a page to themselves, Kowloon, Lappa, Lungchow, Mengtse, and Szemao there are now twenty-five so-called "Chinese Treaty Ports," and of these all but three showed a very considerable improvement, the three laggards being Soochow, Foochow, and Amoy. The West River ports show, notwithstanding piracy on the water and brigandage on land, a very remarkable increase, the revenue collected at the four ports amounting to about Tls. 143,000 against about Tls. 72,000 last year, or nearly double. Coming to the heads under which the total revenue is received, there a considerable increase in import duty, and a very large one in export duty, coast trade duty, and opium duty and likin the increase in transit dues amounting to almost fifty per cent. The only falling off was in tonnage dues, which has no real significance. There was a slight decline in the revenue collected at Kowloon and Lappa, very much less than the increase at Canton. There was a trivial increase at Lungchow, and an equally trivial decline at Szemao; which the collection at Mengtse nearly doubled the amount received in 1898. We have mentioned the large increase in opium duty; it should be added that nearly Hk. Tls. 289,000 was derived from native opium this year against something over Tls. 82,000 in 1898.

At Shanghai M. Rocher, the Commissioner, reports the collection of Hk. Tls. 2,135,957 against Tls. 1,833,957 in 1898 and Tls. 1,963,128 in 1897. Import duty and tonnage dues showed a considerable decline; export duty, coast trade duty, opium duty and likin and transit dues a marked advance. We have said that there is no real significance in the falling-off in tonnage dues this is shown by the tonnage table; 956 vessels of 1,197,636 tons were entered and 968 vessels of 1,209,757 tons cleared against 897 vessels of 1,075,405 tons and 899 vessels of 1,087,192 tons respectively, in the same quarter of 1898. The comparative import of opium here in piculs was as follows:—

	1899.	1898.
Foreign	9,471	6,703
Native	3,783	1,150
Total.....	13,254	7,852

This enormous increase in the import of opium, both foreign and native, cannot be universally welcomed.

In cotton goods there is chiefly to be noticed a large increase in the import of English and American sheetings, with an unimportant decline in grey shirtings. The comparative figures of cotton yarn for three years were as follows, in piculs:—

	1899.	1898.	1897.
English	3,719	8,370	2,878
Indian	375,342	129,006	167,892
Japanese	157,079	81,354	51,825

In woollens there was a decided advance, except in Spanish stripes and Italian cloth, while in metals there was a very marked decline, except in the case of lead. Foreign sundries were on the whole well maintained, though there was a marked falling-off during the quarter in kerosene oil, the comparative figures being, in gallons:—

	1899.	1898.
American	4,359,050	12,853,300
Russian	7,529,370	5,387,290
" in bulk	1,153,058	1,195,460
Sumatran do	1,914,084	3,140,519

Total... 14,955,562 22,576,569

In native sundries the only declines to be specially noticed were in black tea and tobacco leaf.

In exports, it should first be noticed under cotton goods, that 28,840 pieces of Shanghai sheetings were shipped against 1,580 in 1898, and 84,603 piculs of Shanghai cotton yarn against 30,401 piculs last year. In sundries there was a noticeable gain in bean cake, beans and peas, raw cotton, rice, nearly all descriptions of silk, goat skins and rugs, green tea, wheat, and sheep's wool; and a decline in straw and rush hats, hemp, rhubarb, sugar, black tea, tobacco, and camels' wool. Of transit passes 3,033 were issued and 3,031 surrendered, against 7,498 and 19,011 in 1898, and 1,997 and 168, respectively, in 1897. The treasure table shows an import of gold to the value of Hk. Tls. 1,409,904 and silver to the value of Tls. 9,588,316, and an export of the same metals to the value of Tls. 1,100,611 and 7,237,385, respectively. As usual, very little was done in the bonded warehouses; while a fair amount of kerosene oil is bonded, the warehouses themselves contain only a few towels, lamps, needles, etc., and some machine oil.—N. C. Daily News.

FIRE AT PORT ARTHUR.

Port Arthur, 11th November.

Between two and three o'clock this morning a fire broke out in a godown belonging to the Chinese Eastern Railway, situated close to the Company's wharf. The godown was unfortunately choke-full of merchandise, the entire cargo almost of the steamer *Ningoots*, which had only arrived the previous day, being stored there waiting to be taken away by the several consignees. The godown—which was a corrugated iron one—was completely gutted, and by daylight a few charred posts were all of the structure that remained standing. The origin of the fire has not yet been ascertained, but it is thought that it may have been due to the carelessness of the Chinese watchman on duty. The damage is estimated at from \$25,000 to \$40,000, none of which is believed to be covered by insurance.—N. C. Daily News, correspondent.

Major A. F. Cooper, 2nd Royal Welch Fusiliers, at present attached to the 1st Batt., was to embark for Hongkong early this month to join his unit.

A clerk on his way to the German Legation at Peking, named Hans Lange, who embarked on board the German mail steamer *Koenig Albert* at Genoa, committed suicide by shooting himself on Sunday, 19th November, while the vessel was lying at Woosung. Trouble of a private nature is supposed to have led to the act.

The *Straits Times* proposes that the Singapore Diamond Jubilee Fund—which it is proposed to return to the subscribers, owing to the impossibility of agreeing upon the form of the memorial—should be diverted to the Transvaal War Patriotic Fund, dissenting subscribers being allowed to reclaim their subscriptions.

FOOCHOW NOTES.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

The following little incident is interesting as showing how justice (P) is administered in Fokien. In a certain foreign house in Foochow it is the custom to give the night watchman a basket containing a bottle and a book to hand to one of the coolies employed in the same house to go in the early morning and get milk. One of the coolies is a lazy old dog, not without his full share of cunning, and finding it more or less inconvenient to turn out early these chilly mornings he had generally arranged with other milk coolies to call for his basket and get his milk at the same time they got theirs. It was not the same coolie every time, so the other morning, when, as usual, a stranger came and asked for the basket, the watchman thought it was all right and gave it to him, only to learn by and bye that he had given it to a thief-man. Later on the watchman and the coolie were brought up before the taipan to give an account of themselves, but as both would have put Ananias to shame the matter was, seemingly, settled by both of them being fined half-a-day's pay. But about mid-day a ragged gentleman who said he was a packer and who spoke what he thought was English at a most alarming rate and with most blood-curdling gestures, came and said he had caught the thief and in proof handed in the basket, bottle, and book. The sentence on the watchman and coolie was now altered to an enforced "umshaw" of 10 cents each to the thief catcher, who thereupon went off to the mandarin and told him he could put his hands upon a man who had that morning stolen things from a foreigner's house. The mandarin said "Good boy! go and catch him then," and upon being dragged before the mandarin the alleged thief was at once awarded the wooden collar, to be worn for an indefinite period, and was taken in triumph, and in the midst of an admiring crowd, to the house from which he had stolen the milk bottle, etc. The profit and loss account works out like this:—Thief: profit, the possession of a bottle and basket, value about five cents, for an hour or two; loss, the loss of his ability to work for perhaps a month and the discomfort, etc., of the cangue. Thief catcher profit, twenty cents and much kudos, loss nil. Justice, profit? loss?? Serious robberies are, as a rule, unpunished because the thief is very seldom caught, and in this part of the world the receiver is not considered as bad as the thief. There is no difficulty in disposing of goods obviously stolen—for perhaps a hundredth part of their value.

People in Hongkong in speaking of the Foochow community would not mean those resident in Nantai, only but would include those at Sharp Peak, Pagoda, and Kuliang, although these places are several miles apart. Permanent residents at Sharp Peak consist of the Telegraph Co.'s staff and a missionary or two. At Pagoda most of the residents are permanent, and at Kuliang everybody almost, if not quite, leaves at the end of the summer. During the hot weather most of the ladies and children are sent either to the seaside at Sharp Peak or to the mountain-top at Kuliang, and both places are attracting visitors from other parts. Messages can be sent from Sharp Peak and Pagoda by telegraph and passage can always be effected by steam-launch, but Kuliang, the most popular resort, is only in communication with the outside world by messenger, taking practically the whole day to go there and back. At Nantai there is a telephone between most of the offices, but as these are for the most part quite close together it is no very great convenience. To run a telephone or telegraph wire to Kuliang would be troublesome, if only on account of the river having to be crossed, but latterly a means has been discovered by which this difficulty could easily be overcome. The Wireless Telegraph Co. could doubtless supply all that is necessary to enable messages to be sent from Nantai to the mountain-top across the river. There remains the question of cost, but although Foochow is described as a declining port it is to be hoped it is not without a few pounds to invest. Local millionaires and company promoters might do worse than introduce Marconi's system into this quiet and out-of-the-way corner of the earth.

MINING CONCESSIONS IN KOREA.

CHARTER GRANTED TO MR PRITCHARD MORGAN.

A Seoul dispatch says that last year Great Britain demanded from the Korean Government a concession for the working of the Pingyang coal mine. The Korean Government refused the demand on the ground that the mine was reserved for supplying the Imperial Household, but offered to concede a mine in another part of the country. Recently an Englishman arrived in Korea for the purpose of inspecting the various mines, and as a result of the inspection the British Minister has applied to the Korean Government to grant a charter to Mr. Pritchard Morgan, M.P., to work the gold mine at Insan Ping-an-do.—Kobe Chronicle

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

News has reached Canton from Kwangchow-wan to the effect that the natives a few days ago had another fight with the French soldiers, who were beaten back to some distance with a heavy loss. The French have laid the blame on Marshal Su, who has been detained by them on account of his failure to keep the place in order. They have also seized three gunboats, the *Fou Po*, *On Lan* and *Kwong Yuk*.

The number of robberies increases daily. Some places that fail to obtain protection from the mandarins are obliged to ask some well-known robbers to be their protectors, paying them a certain sum every month. If the robbers have accepted the protection of any place, they will do their best to protect it, so that no other robbers dare to give any trouble to it. The Saichin brigands and pirates have accepted the offer of the junks carrying pine wood from Kwangsi to Sanui district by the West River. The brigands have promised to protect them to the end of the Chinese year from molestation by other robbers. Another sum must be paid again after expiration of the time stated if they want their protection continued.

A merchant has applied to the Provincial Treasurer asking to be allowed to establish waterworks to supply water to the people. The Provincial Treasurer has replied that the question has been taken into consideration by the Government.

All the bad characters in the districts of Hon, Woping, Linping, and Cheungling have joined together for the purpose of raising a rebellion. They invite the local merchants to join them, threatening that if they do not do so they will be plundered, arrested, and tortured. Nearly all the well-to-do citizens have fled to other places for safety. The bad characters propose to raise the flag of rebellion next month.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

BAND SHOOTING COMPETITION.

A shooting competition between the members on the Band for a presented prize took place on the 26th November in very favourable weather. The ranges were 200 yds., 400 yds., and 500 yds. Drummer Burgess carried off the prize with a possible of 105.

The aggregate scores were as follows:—

Drummer Burgess	105
Sergt. Drummer Browns	80
Sergt. Drummer Mackie, R.W.F.	82
Drummer Ford	63
Drummer Silas	54
Drummer Warren	42
Drummer Caesar	37

HONGKONG.

There were 2,203 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 194 were Europeans.

The examination for gun layers' badges in the Field Battery, Hongkong Volunteer corps, has resulted in Gunner W. Watson securing the first prize and Gunner R. H. Craig the second prize.

At the Magistracy on the 24th November of the master the *Nanchang* was fined \$50 for neglecting to comply with the quarantine regulations on the arrival of his vessel from Newchwang, an infected port.

At the Magistracy on the 24th November a Chinaman was fined \$25 for being in unlawful possession of 12 rifles, which were about to be conveyed out of the harbour on the Sun Hop Li Junk. The rifles were of a most antiquated pattern.

At the Magistracy on the 24th November a Chinaman was charged with bringing seven coolies from Hoihow into the colony for the purpose of emigration. He promised to find them work in Hongkong, but when he got them here he told them they would have to go to Singapore. This they objected to and reported the matter to the police. Defendant was sentenced to two months hard labour.

The Spanish residents are gratified to learn the Senor Cesar Montorio, a local merchant, who is well known to and much respected by the Spanish community, has been appointed by telegram Consul at this port. Senor Spanolo, the present Consul, has been transferred to Alexandria.

The offertories in St. John's Cathedral on Sunday were devoted to the Alice Memorial and Netherlands Hospitals. In his sermon at the morning service the Chaplain paid a tribute to the medical work in the Transvaal. Special prayers were offered in regard to the War. H.R.H. Prince Henry of Prussia attended evensong at the Cathedral.

The annual report of the Hongkong Odd Volumes Society for 1898-9 enumerates the thirteen meetings held during the season and makes reference to the loss the Society has sustained by the death of Mr Granville Sharp; who, in addition to delivering lectures himself, was a constant speaker at the meetings. The accounts show a credit balance of \$464.53.

The Acting Consul-General for the Netherlands informs us that he has received telegraphic information from the Governor-General of Netherlands-India to the effect that Hongkong is now proclaimed a non-infected port and all measures of quarantine are rescinded.

An Order-in-Council is published in the *Gazette* directing that any correspondence which is sent to the colony from any place outside the colony for the purpose of being posted in the colony shall be charged, upon being posted at the General Post Office of the colony, with the same rates of postage as if such correspondence had been posted at any office other than in the colony.

At about six o'clock on Sunday night Miss Sinnott was walking along Queens Road Central when a Chinaman snatched her watch and chain and made off with them. A special constable to whom the matter was reported set off in pursuit, but as some time had elapsed before he was informed he did not succeed in coming up with the thief. As he went down Li Yuen Street two other special constables said they had seen a man running, but thinking nothing about it did not stop him. Had the other constable blown his whistle it would have put other constables on their guard and the thief might possibly have been captured.

Reports are in circulation as to impending changes in the mail days, consequent on the introduction of the German line's fortnightly service. If the English and French mails continued to leave as at present on alternate Saturdays and the German mail fortnightly on Wednesdays we would have two mails leaving in one week and then an interval of seven days. Nothing has as yet been officially announced as to the English and French mails, but it seems to be expected that the German mail will leave on Wednesday, the French mail on Monday, and the English mail on Thursday, which would give intervals of five, three, and six days respectively.

An important case affecting dog owners came before Mr. Gumpertz, Acting Police Magistrate, on Saturday, it being in fact the first prosecution under the new law relating to the quarantining of dogs. Among the passengers by the *Hanoi* from Haiphong was a gentleman named G. Goubert, who had with him on board four dogs. Two of these—Danish hounds—he imported into the colony, and he was accordingly charged with landing dogs without submitting them to the three months quarantine at the station in the Cattle Depot at Kowloon. A fine of \$20 was imposed, and the dogs were removed to the Depot to undergo the period of quarantine.

Mr. J. McLeavy Brown is at present visiting Hongkong.

Another armed robbery has been reported from near Kowloon City. Shortly after Monday midnight six men, five of whom were armed with revolvers and one with a sword, broke through the roof of a house. They fastened a bed quilt over the heads of the occupant and his wife and then broke open several boxes and stole money and articles to the value of \$170. The affair was reported to Sergeant Wright at the Police Station at Kowloon City and he and his men at once made a search for the delinquents. They made three arrests and brought their prisoners over to Hongkong. In the meantime further enquiries are being made.

In accordance with directions from the General Post Office, London, it is notified in the *Gazette* that that Office can, at present, only secure as far as Cape Town the transmission of parcels addressed to persons in the South African Republic (Transvaal) and the Orange Free State, and other disturbed parts of South Africa. The Postal Authorities of the Cape Colony may or may not be in a position to effect delivery to the addressees of such parcels, many of whom are no doubt now at Cape Town or in other places in communication with Cape Town. There is no objection to forward parcels so addressed at the risk of the senders; and in the case of any such parcels arriving from places abroad, it will be assumed by the London Office that the senders wish them to be sent on at their own risk. The issue of money orders on the above countries has been temporarily suspended.

At the regular meeting of the Victoria Precinctory, held on the 27th November, Sir Knight F. D. Goddard was installed Eminent Precinctory for the ensuing year, the installation being performed by P.E.P. Sir Knight G. C. Anderson, assisted by P.E.P.'s Macdonald, Mallory, and Kirkwood. E.P. Sir Knight F. D. Goddard then appointed and invested his officers for the ensuing year as follows:—1st Constable, Sir Knight G. J. B. Sayer; 2nd Constable, Sir Knight Wm. Farmer; Chaplain, Sir Knight G. A. Watkins; Treasurer, Sir Knight J. J. Bryan; Registrar, Sir Knight Jas. Lochead; Marshal, Sir Knight Wm. Baker; Capt. of the Guard, Sir Knight F. W. Hall; Almoner, Sir Knight B. B. Harker; Herald, Sir Knight E. C. Wilks; 1st Standard Bearer, Sir Knight A. G. Aitken; 2nd Standard Bearer, Sir Knight J. W. Graham; Tyler, Sir Knight J. Maxwell.

A Chinese boy about 12 years of age was brought up at the Magistracy on Thursday on a charge of stealing a bicycle, the property of Mr. G. L. Duncan, of Messrs Lane, Crawford, and Co. On the 28th Nov. Mr. Duncan left his bicycle in a passage on the ground floor of his firm's works in Duddell Street. He subsequently missed it and reported the matter to the police, supplying them with a description of the machine. On Wednesday night Sergeant Sullivan was on duty on the Praya when he saw defendant wheeling a machine similar to the one which had been stolen and he stopped him and took him to the Police Station. Defendant said he had been told by a man to steal the machine, that he had slept besides it all night in an alley in Wanchai, and that when the Sergeant came up to him he was taking it to a place to be sold. His Worship reserved his decision.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1899-1900	1898-99
	lbs.	lbs.
Yokohama	24,538,637	23,088,781
Kobe	12,961,640	12,166,816
	37,500,277	35,255,597

SILK.

SHANGHAI, 25th November.—(From Messrs. A. B. Rurkill & Sons' Circular).—The Home markets are very strong. Blue Elephants have risen to 14/- in London and Gold Killings to Fcs. 35-50 in Lyons. Raw Silk.—The market is very strong and further advances have been established; set-

tlements are about 1,100 bales. There is a very good demand from Japan, especially for Coarse Silks. Yellow Silks.—The demand for these continues, settlements are about 275 bales, the market is very strong, and for desirable parcels holders are asked an advance of 1/10-1/15 over quotations below. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns, November 18th to 24th, are: 1,744 bales White, 415 bales Yellow and 254 bales Wild Silk. Re-Reels and Hand Filatures.—The demand for Hand Filatures still continues both for America and Lyons, prices show a further advance, we estimate settlements for the two markets during the past fortnight at fully 2,000 bales. Steam Filatures.—About 50 bales have been settled, business is curtailed by want of supplies. The Export of Steam Filatures to date is: 3,151 bales to the Continent, 3,017 bales to America, 52 bales to London, and 16 bales to various ports. Wild Silk. Fifty bales of Filatures have been done. There is a good business being done in Chefoo, both in Filatures and Raws, for Japan; thus curtailing arrivals here. Waste Silk.—Very little doing for want of supplies.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1899-1900	1898-9
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	55,814	35,322
Canton	18,867	17,207
Yokohama	14,817	10,067
	88,998	62,686

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1899-1900	1898-9
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	10,333	3,293
Canton	5,975	6,329
Yokohama	18,698	10,551
	25,006	20,163

CAMPBOR.

HONGKONG, 1st December.—No change to report in this market. Quotations for Formosa are \$84.50 to \$85.00 sales 600 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 1st December.—The weakness continues and prices have further declined. Quotations are:

Shanghai, No. 1, White...	\$8.50 to \$8.55	cl.
do. " 2, White...	7.75 to 7.80	..
Shanghai, No. 1, Brown...	5.65 to 5.70	pci.
do. " 2, Brown...	5.50 to 5.55	..
Swatow, No. 1, White...	8.35 to 8.40	..
do. " 1, White...	7.65 to 7.70	..
Swatow, No. 1, Brown...	5.45 to 5.50	..
do. " 2, Brown...	5.35 to 5.40	..
Foochow Sugar Candy	12.30 to 12.35	..
Shanghai	11.25 to 11.30	..

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *Hector*, sailed on the 16th Nov. For London:—100 mats tea (4,800 lbs. Congou, 933 boxes tea 19,593 lbs. Congou, 5,848 boxes tea 122,808 lbs. So., caper, 87 boxes tea 1,827 lbs. So. Or., Pekoe, 6 boxes tea, particulars unknown), 400 casks and 1,850 cases preserves, 2 barrels and 101 cases wine, 5 cases blackwoodware, 20 cases essential oil, 64 cases shells, 5 cases cigars, 33 cases indigo, 6 cases and 50 bales feathers, 5 bales fish bags, 15 bales hemp, and 3 packages sundries. For London option Liverpool:—500 bales hems. For London option Manchester:—25 bales waste silk. For London option Hamburg:—200 casks ginger. For London option Antwerp option Manchester:—200 cases new standard cassia and 14 cases bristles. For Liverpool:—750 bales hemp, 300 bales mats, 3 cases curio, and 3 cases cigars. For Manchester:—30 bales waste silk. For Dundee:—50 casks ginger. For Antwerp:—100 cases selected cassia and 128 cases split bamboo. For Hamburg:—200 selected cassia, 25 cases bristles, 177 bales canes. For Glasgow:—1 box ginger and 1 case tea set.

Per steamer *Suevia* sailed on the 20th Nov. For Marseilles:—5 boxes essential oil, 100 boxes cassia, lignea, and 1,750 bags sesamun seeds. For Marseilles and/or Havre:—20 pkgs. straw. For Marseilles and/or Havre and/or Hamburg:—200 cases staranised. For Marseilles and/or Bordeaux:—18 bales starwbrd. For Havre:—9 cases blackwoodware and 61 bales canes. For Hamburg:—2 cases private effects 32 bales feathers, 50 packages gallnuts, and 62

casks wood oil. For Hamburg and/or London:—14 cases bristles and 145 bales straw-braid. For Copenhagen:—1 case bales sundries.

Per steamer *Sibiria*, sailed on the 20th Nov. For Havre:—1 case ylang ylang, 2 cases silks, 3 cases rice paper, 7 cases China ink, 28 boxes feathers, 38 cases human hair, 50 cases star-aniseed, 61 cases blackwoodware, 10 cases fans, 100 bales broken cassia, 150 cases cassia, 178 bales canes, 189 rolls mats, 231 cases tea, 266 cases Chinaware, 304 cases camphor, 529 bales bamboos and 593 rolls matting. For Havre and/or London:—80 bales canes. For Havre and/or Hamburg:—1 case gongs, 1 case palm-leaves, 3 cases blackwoodware, 6 bales canes, 10 cases vermillion, 26 cases Chinaware, 27 cases human hair, 32 bags shells, 4 cases essential oil, 64 bales rushhats, 87 cases bristles, 133 bales feathers, and 1,864 rolls mats. For Havre and/or Hamburg and/or London:—60 cases essential oil, 170 cases bristles, and 1,875 cases camphor. For Hamburg:—1 case gongs, 1 case China ink, 2 cases silverware, 3 cases silks, 4 cases human hair, 4 cases wires, 4 cases bronze-ware, 6 cases curios, 7 rolls mats, 10 cases lacquered ware, 11 cases sundries, 13 cases private effects, 14 cases cigars, 37 cases Chinaware, 37 bristles, 65 essential oil, 83 casks salomoniac, 85 cases preserves, 90 cases fans, 99 casks wood oil, 100 bales rattanware, 249 rolls matting, 250 cases firecrackers, 620 cases camphor, 732 bags copra, 803 bales canes, 919 bales feathers, 1,000 bales broken cassia, and 1,007 cases tea. For Hamburg and/or Antwerp:—165 cases bristles. For Hamburg and/or Antwerp and/or London:—70 cases bristles. For Antwerp:—3 bales tobacco and 55 packages canes. For Amsterdam:—9 cases Chinaware and 200 casks preserves. For Rotterdam:—2 cases cassia, 6 bales tobacco, 100 bales broken cassia, 200 cases cassia lignea, and 500 cases preserves. For Copenhagen:—200 cases assia. For New York:—1 case cigars. For Lisbon:—22 cases Chinaware. For Oporto:—1 case silk.

Per steamer *Moyune*, sailed on the 21st November. For Singapore:—5,019 packages merchandise, 4,473 rolls matting, 500 bales cassia, 250 cases Saigon cassia, 225 cases tea, 100 bales waste silk, 102 cases cassia oil, 60 cases essential oil, 31 cases staraniseed oil, 42 cases Chinaware, 16 cases blackwoodware, 40 cases lithographic paper, 21 boxes cantharides, 35 bales canes, 3 cases ginger, 30 cases bamboo fans, 15 cases human hair, and 4 cases cloth shoes.

Per American ship, *St. James*, sailed on the 24th November. From Hongkong for New York:—8,263 rolls matting, 6,016 boxes palm oil fans, 399 bales rattanware, 7,563 packages firecrackers, 300 cases and 750 bales cassia, 329 bales canes, 60 boxes bamboo fans, 140 packages rattanware, 100 cases joss sticks, 300 cases and 75 casks ginger, 50 casks soy, 51 cases blackwoodware, 3 cases Chinaware, 25 cases paper, and 20 casks wood oil.

Per P. & O. steamer *Bengal*, sailed on the 25th November. For London:—2 cases personal effects from Manila, 814 boxes tea, 5 bales raw silk, and 2 cases silks. For Lyons:—451 raw silk. For Zurich:—10 bales raw silk. For Marseilles:—414 bales raw silk, 2 cases silks, and 6 packages hair.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 1st December.—Bengal.—There has been a rise in prices and the market has been active. Closing quotations are \$893½ for Patna and \$877½ for New Benares.

Malwa.—A few sales have taken place during the interval at rates very little different from the figures last quoted. Quotations are as under:—
New \$900 with all'ce. of — to — catty.
Old \$910 " " " " " " " " " " " "

Persian.—Transactions have been few and prices have gone up. Latest figures are \$820 for Oily and \$650 to \$640 for Paper-wrapped according to quality.

To-day's stocks are estimated as follows:—
New Patna..... 83 chests.
New Benares..... 262 "
Malwa..... 700 "
Persian..... 1100 "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1899.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Nov. 25	877½	—	847½	—	900	910
Nov. 26	877½	—	847½	—	900	910
Nov. 27	877½	—	845	—	900	910
Nov. 28	890	—	867½	—	910	910
Nov. 29	893½	—	877½	—	900	910
Nov. 30	893½	—	877½	—	900	910
Dec. 1	893½	—	877½	—	900	910

RICE.

HONGKONG, 1st December.—There has been no falling off in the demand and prices have further advanced. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary.....	\$2.80 to 2.85
" Round, Good quality	3.15 to 3.20
" Long	3.45 to 3.50
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No 2 ..	3.10 to 3.15
" Garden, " No. 1 ..	3.50 to 3.55
" White	3.85 to 3.90
" Fine Cargo.....	4.20 to 4.25

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 1st December.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS.—*Bombay Yarn*:—900 bales No. 10 at \$81 to \$90, 700 bales No. 12 at \$78 to \$88, 200 bales No. 16 at \$91 to \$98, 1,300 bales No. 20 at \$90 to \$102. *Grey Shirtings*.—600 pieces 8½ lbs. Blue Seal at \$3.40, 60 pieces 8½ lbs. 8 dogs at \$3.50. *White Shirtings*. 500 pieces at \$3.60, 250 pieces Flower chop \$3.40, 200 pieces gold goose at \$4.77½. *T. Cloths*.—375 pieces gold pheasant at \$2.20, 1,200 pieces, 8 lbs. Gold Dragon at \$2.90, 600 pieces 8lbs. Gold Dragon at \$2.90, 375 pieces 7 lbs. Silver Dragon at \$2.45. *V. Lawn*.—1,000 pieces Violet Stag at \$0.81, 1,000 pieces Violet Stag at \$0.81, 1,000 pieces Brown at \$0.77½.

COTTON YARN—	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s.	68.00 to 102.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24.....	110.00 to 115.00
" 22 to 24.....	112.00 to 118.00
" 28 to 32.....	125.00 to 131.00
" 38 to 42.....	140.00 to 148.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS—	per price
Grey Shirtings 61bs.	1.80 to 1.90
71bs.	2.05 to 2.15
84 lbs.	2.65 to 3.31
9 to 10 lbs.	3.55 to 4.40
White Shirtings—51 to 56 rd.	2.41 to 2.60
54 to 60 " ..	2.85 to 3.51
61 to 66 " ..	3.80 to 4.65
Fine.....	4.65 to 7.55
Book-folds.	4.05 to 5.95
Victoria Lawns—12 yards ..	0.70 to 1.35
T. Cloths—61bs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	1.60 to 1.85
71bs. (32 ") ..	1.92 to 2.20
61bs. (32 ") ..	1.70 to 1.91
71bs. (32 ") ..	2.30 to 2.90
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.) ..	2.60 to 3.35
Drills, English—40 yds., 14 to 161bs.	3.80 to 6.60

FANCY COTTONS—
Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 1.65 to 6.50
81bs.

Brocades—Dyed	4.00 to 5.00
per yard	
Damasks	0.12 to 0.15
Chintzes—Assorted	0.07½ to 0.16
Velvets—Black, 22 in	0.22½ to 0.51
Velveteens—18 in.....	0.21 to 0.23
per dozen	
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk ..	0.30 to 2.01

WOOLLENS—	per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.....	0.73 to 1.75
German	— to —
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths.....	1.25 to 5.50

Long Ells Scarlet	6.25 to 10.00
Assorted	6.35 to 10.10
Camlets—Assorted	12.00 to 32.00
Lastings 30 yds., 3 inches, (Assorted) ..	9.15 to 18.00
Orleans—Plain	7.50 to 8.50
per pair	
Blankets—8 to 12lbs. (pair) ..	4.50 to 12.00

METALS—	per picul
Iron—Nail Rod	5.75 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar ..	6.15 to —
Swedish Bar.....	7.10 to —
Small Round Rod	6.25 to —
Hoop ½ to 1½ in.	6.75 to —
Wire 15/25	10.50 to —
Old Wire Rope.....	5.50 to —
Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop ..	2.50 to —
Australian	10.25 to —

Yellow M'el—Montz. 14/20 oz. 47.00 to —	
Vivian's. 14/20 oz. 41.50 to —	
Elliot's. 14/20 oz. 41.50 to —	
Composition Nails	68.00 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs	40.00 to —
Tin	96.00 to —

SHANGHAI 25th Nov.—(From Messrs. Nossli, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade Report, Piece Goods.—Since the date of our last report there has been no change in the attitude of our market. There is still little or no business to speak of being done by first hands, and judging by the clearances lately native holders are realising little or nothing. The last steamers for Tientsin will be leaving in a week or ten days, but the bulk of the supplies they will carry up have already been provided for. The natives, however, anticipate that so soon as that Port is closed buying will commence in order to invest the funds they are said to be amply supplied with for that purpose. In this case we may hope to see prices put on a more satisfactory basis, and the margin that exists between the rates now current and the cost of replacing considerably reduced. Meanwhile Auction values show but little change; what there is though is in the right direction. There is no news of interest from any of our dependences. Chefoo perhaps displaying a little more life. The last steamers have left Newchwang on their return voyages. It is reported that the Plague is making frightful ravages there, as next to nothing is being done to stamp it out. The stringency in the money market till continues and deliveries are thereby restricted. The somewhat lower rates of interest now prevailing is releasing some of the Native money, and the Szechuen men have commenced to buy Indian Yarns, the market for which shows an improvement of about a half and a half. Japanese Spinnings are also firmer, and it is rumoured that the sales of consignments here have been stopped and the reshipment ordered. Local Yarns have received more attention at better prices, one of the Mills having arranged for the sale of its total production for the first three months of next year. Clearances have commenced on a freer scale again. Cotton is steady at Tls. 17.70 net best steam machine ginned, and Tls. 17.40 for Tungchow.

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 1st December.—Rates continue to rule steady, with but few changes, and business restricted to a few stocks.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have ruled more or less neglected with only small sales at 348 and 349 per cent. premium for cash, whilst sales are reported at 363 and 360 per cent. premium for February; market closes with buyers at 349. Nationals have changed hands at \$29½ cash and more could be placed at the same rate or probably at \$30. The founders' shares are, however, on offer at quotations.

MARINE INSURANCES.—With the exception of a few small sales of Unions at \$24½ and Straits at \$2½ there is nothing to report under this heading.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have found further small buyers at quotations. China Fires have been enquired for at \$87 to \$88, the enquiry resulting in small sales at the latter rate.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have improved to \$30 with small sales and buyers. Indo-Chinas after sales at \$83, \$84, and \$85 have boomed to \$91 with sales, the market, however, closing quieter with sellers at \$88½. China Manillas continue steady, without any business. Douglasses have changed hands at \$17 and close steady at that rate. China Mutuals are still enquired for.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have been negotiated in small lots at \$122½ and \$124 and close with sellers at \$123. Lusons have changed hands at quotation.

MINING.—Punjoms continue neglected with small sales at \$8½. Charbonnages unchanged and without business. Jebebus, after telegraphic news of the loss of the lode, quickly fell to \$9, after sales at \$10.75 and \$10.50. The market, however, soon recovered and sales were effected at \$10, after limited sales at \$9.10, \$9.25, and \$9.50; market closes much firmer with buyers at \$10½. Raubs continue quiet with small sales at \$63, closing at \$62½. Olivers B. have found buyers at \$6½ and \$6½ and Great Easterns at \$0.80.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have been on offer

during the week at 525 per cent. prem. Kowloon Wharves, continue quiet and sales have been effected at \$85 and \$84. Wanchais remain at \$45 without business.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have ruled quiet with but small sales at \$110, closing at \$110 with an inclination to weakness. Hotels after small sales and sellers at \$120 and \$118 close weak at \$115. West Points and Humphreys continue dull and almost out of the market with small sales of the former at \$29 and the latter at \$9 and \$9.

COTTON MILLS.—Without any local business to report rates (with the exception of Hongkong Cottons) are taken from the last Shanghai circulars.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Dairy Farms have changed hands at quotation and more shares could be placed. Campbell and Moores are still enquired for without resulting in business. Green Islands have changed hands at \$28 and close with sellers at \$27. China Borneos have advanced to \$15 with sales.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		[\$562]
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	350 p. ct. prem.,=
China & Japan, ordy.	24	21.
Do. deferred	21	25 6s.
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	28	\$30. buyers
Foun. Shares	28	\$30. buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	21	nominal
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$14. buyers
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$9. buyers
China Sugar	\$100	\$123. sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 60
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 68
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 73.
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 875
Yahloong	Tls. 100	Tls. 58
Hongkong	\$100	\$58. sellers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$5. buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$42. buyers
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$27. sellers
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$25.
Hongkong & C. Gas	210	\$127.
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$10. s'hrs ex n. iss.
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$147.
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$11. seller.
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$125.
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$44. sellers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$196. buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$125	\$525 p. ct. prem.=
Insurance—		[\$781, sellers]
Canton	\$50	\$182.
China Fire	\$20	\$88. buyers
China Traders'	\$25	\$59. sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$327. sellers.
North-China	225	Tls. 190.
Straits	\$20	\$24. buyers
Union	\$50	\$242. sale & s'ls.
Yangtze	\$60	\$121. sellers
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$50	\$110.
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$94. sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$28. sellers
West Point Building	\$50	\$29. sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$47. buyer
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$300
Gt. Estn. & O'donin	\$5	80 cts
Do. Preference	\$1	40 cts. sellers
Jelelu	\$5	\$104. sellers
Quern's Mines Ltd.	25c	40 cts. sellers
Oliver's Mines, A.	\$5	\$9. s'ls
Do. B.	\$4	\$6.75
Punjum	\$6	\$34. sellers
Do. Preference	\$1	\$130. sales
Raults	15s. 10d	\$62. sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$64	\$19. buyers
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	\$50	\$90. sellers
China Mutual Pref.	210	\$94. buyers
China Ordinary	210	\$9. buyers
Do.	25	\$5. sales & sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$47. sales
H. Canton and M.	\$15	\$30. buyers
Indo-China S. N.	210	\$88. sellers
Shell Transport and		
Trading Co.	2100	\$2 0
Star Ferry	\$74	\$214.
Teban Planting Co.	\$5	\$5. sellers
Do.	\$3	\$3.
United Asbestos	\$2	\$4
Do.	\$10	\$10. nominal
Wanchai Warehouse	\$374	\$4. buyers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$152. ex div. als

J. Y. V. VERNON, Broker.

SHANGHAI, 27th November.—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report).—Business was done chiefly in Indo-China. Wharf, and Langkat shares. Cotton Mill shares have also received some attention. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—Shares were purchased from Hongkong at 849 per cent premium, closing 348 per cent. premium at exchange 73. Marine Insurance.—Unions were sold to Hongkong at \$240 and 238, with exchange 71. North Chinas were placed at Tls. 190. Fire Insurance.—No local business. Shipping.—Indo-China S. N. shares changed hands locally at Tls. 60/61 cash, Tls. 60 for the 30th current, Tls. 60/61 for December, Tls. 63/64 for February, Tls. 64/65 for March and Tls. 65 for April and March shares are wanted. Purchases are reported, from Hongkong, at \$80/82. Sugars.—Perak Sugar Cultivation shares were sold at Tls. 59/58. Docks, Wharves and Godowns.—Shares in S. C. Farnham & Co. were placed at Tls. 220 and 225 cash. Shanghai Engineering shares were sold, Founders at Tls. 250, and Ordinary at Tls. 100. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf shares were in strong demand, and business was done at Tls. 250/252 cash, Tls. 255 for the 30th current, Tls. 255/260 for December, Tls. 262 for January and Tls. 270 for March, and cash shares are wanted. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment shares were sold at Tls. 84/85. Industrial.—Shanghai Gas shares were placed at Tls. 210/215. In Cotton Mill shares: E-wos were sold at Tls. 60, Internationals at Tls. 68, and Laou-kung-mow at Tls. 73. Soychees are obtainable at Tls. 400 cash, while buyers offer Tls. 40 for 31st March. Shanghai Ice New shares were sold at Tls. 274. American Cigarette shares were placed at Tls. 60. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai Langkat Tobacco shares were the medium of a large business at Tls. 300 to Tls. 290 cash, the purchases at the highest figure being generally of small lots to make multiples of four, in view of the proposed new issue. Business was also done for December at Tls. 305; for January at Tls. 310, and for March at Tls. 325/315. Some shareholders would like fractional certificates being given to those who have a number which is not a multiple of four, as was done by the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, the Sheridan Mining Co., the Shanghai Gas Co., and others. Hall & Holtz shares were sold at \$37, \$38 and \$37; and Central Stores at \$12.

Quotations are:—

BANKS.

Hongkong and Shanghai.—\$348 per cent. pm.
Bank of China and Japan, Ltd.—21.0.
Do. ordinary.—25.5.0.
National Bank of China, Ltd.—\$28.00.

COTTON MILLS.

Ewo Cotton Spinning & W. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 60.00.
Hongkong Cotton S. W. & D. Co.—\$58.00.
International Cotton Man. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 68.00.
Laou-kung-mow Cotton Co., Ltd.—Tls. 73.00.
Soy Chee Cotton Spinning Co., Ltd.—Tls. 350.00.

DOCKS, WHARVES, & CO.

Boyd & Co., Ltd., Founders.—Nominal.
Boyd & Co., Limited.—Tls. 195.00.
Hongkong & K'loon Wharf Company.—\$87.00.
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd.—\$781.25.
S. C. Farnham & Co.—Tls. 225.00.
Shanghai Engineering S. & D. Co.—Tls. 100.00.
Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co.—Tls. 252.50.

INSURANCES.

Canton Insurance Office, Ltd.—\$132.50.
China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$87.00.
China Traders' Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$59.00.
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$320.00.
North China Insurance Co., Ltd.—Tls. 190.00.
Straits Insurance Co., Ltd.—Nominal.
Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ltd.—\$233.
Yangtze Insurance Assocn., Ltd.—\$125.00.

LANDS.

Hongkong Land Invest. & A. Co., Ltd.—\$110.00.
Humphreys Estate & Finance Co., Ltd.—\$10.00.
Shanghai Land Invest. Co., (fully pd.)—Tls. 85.00.

MINING.

Punjum Mining Co., Ltd.—\$9.00.
Punjum Mining Co., Ltd., pref. shares.—\$1.50.
Raub Australian Gold Mining Co., Ltd.—\$62.00.
Sheridan Consolidated Co.—Tls. 40.

SHIPPING.

China-Mutual preference.—Tls. 72.00.
Do. ordinary, 25 paid.—Tls. 30.00.
Co-operative Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 170.00.
Douglas Steamship Co., Ltd.—\$48.00.
Hongkong, Canton and Macao.—\$29.00.
Indo-China Steam N. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 61.00.
Shanghai Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 185.00.
Shanghai Tugboat Co., Ltd.—Tls. 235.00.
Taku Tug & Lighter Co., Ltd.—Tls. 84.00.

SUGAR.

China Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$123.00.
Luzon Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$47.00.
Perak Sugar Cultivation Co., Ltd.—Tls. 58.00.

MISCELLANEOUS.

American Cigarette Co.—Tls. 60.00.
Central Stores, Ltd.—\$12.00.
China Flour Mills Co.—Tls. 32.50.
Hall & Holtz, Ltd.—\$37.00.
Llewellyn & Co., J., Limited.—\$55.00.
Major Brothers, Limited.—Tls. 35.00.
Shanghai Feather Cleaning Co.—Nominal.
Shanghai Gas Co.—\$215.00.
Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ltd.—Tls. 80.00.
Shanghai Ice, Cold Storage, & Refrigeration Co., Ltd.—Tls. 30.00.
Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ltd.—Tls. 23.00.
Shanghai Rice Mills Co.—Tls. 25.00.
Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco Co.—Tls. 59.00.
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd.—Tls. 265.00.
Watson Co., A. S., Limited.—\$16.00.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 1st December.

ON LONDON.—

Telegraphic Transfer 1/11 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand 1/11 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight 1/11 1/2
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight 1/11 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight 2/- 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight 2/- 1/2

ON PARIS.—

Bank Bills, on demand 2.47
Credits, at 4 months' sight 2.52 1/2

ON GERMANY.—

On demand 2.00

ON NEW YORK.—

Bank Bills, on demand 47 1/2
Credits, 60 days' sight 48 1/2

ON BOMBAY.—

Telegraphic Transfer 145 1/2
Bank, on demand 145 1/2

ON CALCUTTA.—

Telegraphic Transfer 145 1/2
Bank, on demand 145 1/2

ON SHANGHAI.—

Bank, at sight 71 1/2
Private, 30 days' sight 72 1/2

ON YOKOHAMA.—

On demand 4 % pm.

ON MANILA.—

On demand 2 % pm

ON SINGAPORE.—

On demand 1 % pm.

SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate 10.18

GOLD LEAF, 100 fine per tael 58.00

TONNAGE.

SHANGHAI, 27th November (from Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s report).—The expected clearing of northern ports for the winter at an early date has caused a lively demand for tonnage homewards, and both London and New York steamers have fared well. For the former direction rates have been advanced about 5s. all round, while for New York no change is to be reported. Coastwise.—Business from Newchwang has now practically closed for the season, and steamers are busily employed carrying rice from Yangtze ports for the South, in which direction a very large amount of chartering has been effected at quotation. From Japan very high rates continue for coal to this port and as high as \$2.75 has been paid, with numerous settlements ranging from \$2.4 to \$2.75 per ton. For New York via Cape:—Enquiry exists for sail tonnage, but to such a small extent as to offer no inducement to charter a ship for this berth. Rates of freight are:—London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 45s.; waste silk 47s. 6d.; tea 50s.; Northern Continental ports, by Conference Lines, general cargo 45s.; waste silk 47s. 6d.; tea 50s.; New York via London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 52s. 6d.; waste silk 55s.; tea 57s. 6d.; Baltimore via London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 57s. 6d.; waste silk 60s.; tea 62s. 6d.; Konigsberg via London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 52s. 6d.; waste silk 55s.; tea 57s. 6d.; Manchester, by Conference Lines, general cargo 57s. 6d.; waste silk 60s.; tea 62s. 6d.; Liverpool, by Conference Lines, general cargo 50s.; waste silk 52s. 6d.; tea 55s.; Hamburg, by Conference Lines, general cargo 45s.; waste silk 47s. 6d.; tea 50s. Above rates are subject to a deferred rebate, as per Conference circular. Genoa, by Conference Lines, tallow 40s. 6d. net, general cargo 42s. net, waste silk 45s. net, tea 45s. net; Marseilles, by Conference Lines, tallow 40s. net, general cargo 42s. 6d. net, waste silk 45s. net, tea 45s. net; Havre, by Conference Lines, tallow

40s. 6d. net, general cargo 42s. 6d. net, waste silk 45s. net, tea 45s. net. 35s. per ton of 20 cwt. net for above three ports. New York, by sail, 20s. nominal. New York via Pacific, 1½ gold cent per lb. tea, 6 cents per lb. silk, \$10 per ton strawbraid. New York via Suez, 30s. general cargo, 10s. extra for Turmeric, 30s. for tea, all net. Boston via Suez, 37s. 6d. general cargo, 10s. extra for Turmeric, 42s. 6d. for tea, all net. Philadelphia via Suez, 37s. 6d. general cargo, 10s. extra for Turmeric, 42s. 6d. for tea, all net. Coast rates.—Mojito to Shanghai \$2.75 per ton coal; Nagasaki to Shanghai \$2.75 per ton coal; Newchwang to Kobe, to Nagasaki, to Swatow, to Amoy, to Whampoa, and to Canton all closed; Wuhu and Chinkiang to Canton, 24 cands.; to Amoy, 22 cands.; to Swatow, 22 cands.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—Clyde (str.). Malacca (str.). Indomeneus (str.). Japan (str.).
For LIVERPOOL DIRECT.—Tantalus (str.).
For BREMEN.—Koenig Albert (str.).
For MARSEILLES.—Sanuki Maru (str.), Annam (str.), Silesia (str.). Hakata Maru (str.).
For HAMBURG.—Bamberg (str.).
For HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—Bamberg (str.).
For Sarnia (str.). Konigsberg (str.). Ambria (str.).
For SAN FRANCISCO.—China (str.). Hongkong Maru (str.). Doric (str.).
For SAN DIEGO VIA SHANGHAI.—Lady Joicey (str.).
For VANCOUVER.—Empress of Japan (str.).
For VICTORIA, B.C., VIA SHANGHAI.—Queen Adelaide (str.).
For PORTLAND, O.—Monmouthshire (str.).
For NEW YORK.—Catania (str.). Afghanistan (str.). Mary L. Cushing, Adolph Obrig Asama (str.).
For AUSTRALIA.—Futami Maru (str.). Chingtu (str.). Australian (str.).
For SINGAPORE PENANG AND CALCUTTA.—Chelydra (str.).
For PHILADELPHIA AND NEW YORK.—St. Mark.
For BALTIMORE AND NEW YORK.—Reuce.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG:

November—ARRIVALS.
25, Machew, British str., from Bangkok.
25, Bisagno, Italian str., from Bombay.
25, Loyal, German str., from Hongay.
25, Fooksang, British str., from Canton.
25, Jason, British str., from Penang.
25, Wingsang, British str., from Canton.
25, Progress, German str., from Canton.
25, Ningpo, British str., from Canton.
25, Hermes, Norwegian str., from Canton.
25, John McDonald, Amr. ship, from N. York.
25, Esmeralda, British str., from Manila.
25, Kong Beng, British str., from Haiphong.
25, Maidzuru Maru, Jap. str., from Amoy.
25, Taksang, British str., from Wuhu.
26, Chelydra, British str., from Calcutta.
26, Formosa, British str., from Amoy.
26, Hating, French str., from Haiphong.
26, S. Rickmers, British str., from Swatow.
26, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Canton.
26, Whampoa, British str., from Canton.
26, Pakhoi, British str., from Wuhu.
27, Ambria, German str., from Hamburg.
27, Loongmoon, German str., from Shanghai.
27, Canton, British str., from Wuhu.
27, Machaon, British str., from Shanghai.
27, Gefion, German cruiser, from Woosung.
27, Triumph, German str., from Pakhoi.
27, Woosung, British str., from Shanghai.
28, Amigo, German str., from Haiphong.
28, Queen Adelaide, Brit. str., from Shanghai.
28, Thales, British str., from Taiwanfoo.
28, Holstein, German str., from Saigon.
28, Bygdo, Norwegian str., from Canton.
28, Prosper, Norwegian str., from Canton.
28, Socotra, British str., from London.
28, Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.
28, Sishan, British str., from Koh-si-chang.
28, Ulysses, British str., from Liverpool.
29, Lady Joicey, British str., from Moji.
29, Loyal, German str., from Canton.
29, Nanyang, German str., from Chefoo.
29, Hongkong Maru, Jap. str., from S. F. cisoo.
29, Kyoto Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
29, Sanuki Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
29, Hangchow, British str., from Chinkiang.
29, Kiangnan, Chinese str., from Wuhu.
29, Shansi, British str., from Canton.
29, Legaspi, Spanish str., from Manila.
29, Iphigenia, British cruiser, from a cruise.

30, Prinz Heinrich, Ger. str., from Hamburg.
30, Clara, German str., from Haiphong.
30, Orlando, British cruiser, from Nagasaki.
30, Formosa, British str., from Swatow.
30, Sarnia, German str., from Hamburg.
30, Sullberg, German str., from Newchwang.
30, Picciola, German str., from Saigon.

December—

1, Annam, French str., from Shanghai.
1, Malacca, British str., from Yokohama.
1, Haimun, British str., from Tamsui.
1, Tamsui Maru, Japanese str., from Swatow.
1, Chowtai, British str., from Bangkok.
1, Chwushan, British str., from Bangkok.
1, Benalder, British str., from Antwerp.
1, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.
1, Bamberg, German str., from Moji.
1, Katsuyama Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
1, Diomed, British str., from Liverpool.
1, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
1, Taiwan, British str., from Chinkiang.
1, Taisang, British str., from Shanghai.

November—DEPARTURES.

25, Bengal, British str., for Europe.
25, Khalif, British str., for Shanghai.
25, Shansi, British str., for Canton.
25, Siam, British str., for Singapore.
25, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
25, Prosper, Norwegian str., for Canton.
25, Futami Maru, Jap. str., for Nagasaki.
25, Loyal, German str., for Canton.
25, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
25, Talegani Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
25, Propontis, British str., for Singapore.
25, Coromandel, British str., for Shanghai.
25, Rohilla, British str., for Yokohama.
25, Linnet, British gunboat, for Wuchow.
26, P. C. Klao, British str., for Bangkok.
26, Ningpo, British str., for Shanghai.
26, Kamakura Maru, Jap. str., for Yokohama.
26, Hanoi, French str., for Hoihow.
26, Devawongse, British str., for Bangkok.
26, Hailong, British str., for Swatow.
26, City of London, Brit. str., for Shanghai.
26, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
26, Hue, French str., for Haiphong.
26, Hermes, Norwegian str., for Canton.
27, Centaution, British flag-ship, for Singapore.
27, Iphigenia, British cruiser, for a cruise.
27, Maidzuru Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
27, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
27, Wingsang, British str., for Canton.
27, Canton, British str., for Canton.
27, Pakhoi, British str., for Canton.
28, Formosa, British str., for Swatow.
28, Fooksang, British str., for Chefoo.
28, Loongmoon, German str., for Canton.
28, Woosung, British str., for Canton.
28, Kong Beng, British str., for Haiphong.
28, Swatow, German str., for Haiphong.
28, Miike Maru, Jap. str., for Bombay.
28, Jason, British str., for Amoy.
29, Deuteros, German str., for Saigon.
29, Chingtu, British str., for Shimonoseki.
29, Machaon, British str., for London.
29, Triumph, German str., for Hoihow.
29, Hinsang, British str., for Yokohama.
29, Nanyang, German str., for Canton.
29, Kiangnan, Chinese str., for Canton.
30, Loyal, German str., for Hongay.
30, Ulysses, British str., for Shanghai.
30, Pakshan, British str., for Swatow.
30, Gaelic, British str., for S. Francisco.
30, Prosper, Norw. str., for Hongay.
30, Hangchow, British str., for Canton.
30, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
30, Bisagno, Italian str., for Bombay.
30, Esmeralda, British str., for Manila.
30, Shansi, British str., for Shanghai.

December—

1, Prinz Heinrich, Ger. str., for Shanghai.
1, Sandakan, German str., for Sandakan.
1, Ambria, German str., for Shanghai.
1, Formosa, British str., for Swatow.
1, Lothair, British bark, for Callao.
1, Amigo, German str., for Haiphong.
1, Sanuki Maru, Jap. str., for London.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per Haiching, from Coast Ports, Mr. and Mrs. Warfield, Mr. and Mrs. Lubaut and child, Messrs. A. H. Ellis, J. Brown, J. B. Walker, Rev. Daville, Messrs. Noval and E. H. Sharp.
Per Hailong, from Tamsui, &c., Mr. Ortiz.

Per Kamakura Maru, from Singapore, Mr. G. R. Stevens, Mr. R. Douglas, Mrs. Jed, Mrs. Watson, Mr. Piercy, Revs. Herriek and Giff, Mrs. Wallace, Revs. Rose and Rowley.

Per Coromandel, for Hongkong, from London, Miss N. Morgan, Rev. and Mrs. Alf, and Miss Hancock; from Marseilles, Rev. and Mrs. Williams, and Mr. J. G. Kingscome; from Colombo, Mr. R. Macgowan; from Singapore, Messrs. W. T. Layard and C. J. Demee; for Shanghai, from London, Mr. and Mrs. Hiller, child and infant, Mrs. O. E. Ready and children, and Mr. B. Wanstall; from Marseilles, Messrs. McKensie and C. O. Dilbr; for Yokohama, from London, Mr. and Mrs. Wentz, and Mr. Wentz (junior); from Marseilles, Mr. Eugene Huart; from Singapore, Mr. J. C. Machale.

Per Formosa, from Amoy, &c., Capt. G. Black.
Per Esmeralda, from Manila, Mr. G. Raman-das.

Per Kong Beng, from Haiphong, Messrs. Bono and Prisque.

Per Loongmoon, from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Hyland and child, Messrs. A. Neubourg, R. Heidorn, Bakun, Guion, Goldmann, and Mr. Goldstein and daughter.

Per Woosung, from Shanghai, &c., Mr. G. C. Dew.

Per Thales, from Taiwanfoo, &c., Mrs. Grainger, Messrs. Bain, Smith, and Watson.

Per Sungkiang, from Manila, Mrs. Jewel, Messrs. A. Clemensha, J. F. Heideger, G. H. Vintar, E. D. Ryan, Capt. A. Tregabal, Mrs. Alexandra Palanea and family, Messrs. G. F. Silver and Isaac Berkouch.

Per Hongkong Maru, from San Francisco, &c., Mrs. Irvine Todd, Mrs. M. C. Gustin, Mr. P. Hattori, Mrs. Geo. N. Wolfe, Mrs. Jno. O'Shea, Miss Susie Holcomb, Mrs. T. C. S. O'Leary, Comdr. F. P. Gilmore, Mrs. Jas. Regan, Mrs. B. S. Higley and child, Mrs. C. F. Snow and infant, Miss Nellie Regan, Mr. Jno. E. Masou, Miss Mason, Mrs. L. T. Wingate, Mr. R. T. Mulkern, Judge J. R. Putnam, Mrs. Leo D. Miner, Mrs. H. B. Orwig and 3 children, Mrs. J. R. Putnam, Mrs. J. W. Richardson, Mrs. J. Finnick and infant, Mrs. Chas. R. Noyes, Rev. A. E. Street, Mrs. Pompkins and 3 children, Miss I. M. Humphreys, Mrs. A. E. Street and infant, Mrs. I. Keithley and 2 children, Mr. A. Wysard, Miss L. J. Cooper, Mr. O. Robbins and 3 sisters, Mr. and Mrs. Cama, Mr. and Mrs. M. Berol, Mr. J. Golden, Mrs. Hopkins, Messrs. W. Berol, C. V. Malmberg, M. Leon, Jos. Wallie, and Miss Jones.

Per Prinz Heinrich, from Hamburg, &c., Mr. C. Struckmann, Mrs. M. Brooks, Mr. and Mrs. G. Atzenroth, Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Tooker, Mrs. Hartigan and daughter, Messrs. H. Struve, G. Drewes, F. Ramsay, P. Jordan, C. Albers, P. P. Moore, G. Späte, E. O. Brownlow, H. Slätzel, E. Eisenmann, 289 Chinese.

Per Formosa, from Swatow, Mr. F. Leyburn.

DEPARTED.

Per Bengal, from Hongkong, for Singapore, Baron Bodenhausen, Mrs. Wellman and two daughters, and Mr. W. E. Maudsley; for Penang, Mr. and Mrs. Sarwar, and Mr. J. J. Keswick; for Colombo, Mr. A. Stewart; for Marseilles, Messrs. P. Morgan, C. N. Spencer, Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Johnston, and Miss Fanny Wand; for London, Mr. and Mrs. N. W. Barrett, and Mr. J. C. Mitchell; from Yokohama, for Colombo, Surg. Gen. and Mrs. McVittie; from Kobe, for London, Messrs. Y. Sasaki and K. Nishino; from Shanghai, for Singapore, Mr. H. C. Gulland; for Bombay, Messrs. Gorman Rai and Mohomod Latif; for Marseilles, Bishop and Miss Granston, Miss Crook, and Rev. C. F. Kupfer; for London, Misses A. and M. Baller, Mrs. Pearce, Miss and Master Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Allen, Mr. H. J. Mason, Misses Sansa and F. Backentoes.

Per Yuensang, for Manila, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Wentz, Messrs. E. L. Wentz, E. A. Kingcome, Robert W. Borthwick, F. Zulauf, Chas. G. Coy, A. Docter, and S. A. Ramjohn.

Per Gaelic, for Shanghai, Mr. C. T. Veitch, Col. Georges, Mr. H. W. Bravier, Mrs. F. Thornton, Mr. A. C. Van Nierop, Capt. A. N. Patrick; for Nagasaki, Mrs. Whistler and Master Stanley Whistler; for Yokohama, Mr. C. H. Bain; for San Francisco, Messrs. Eugene D. Ryan, John F. Heideger, and Percy Moore.

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